

The Baptist Record

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After The Split — Church Grows, Loves, Ministers

By Tim Nicholas
Nearly three years ago, Commission Road Baptist Church in Long Beach suffered a split. The pastor and half the congregation left the church to begin a charismatic ministry. The remnant, about 40 people, were saddled with a \$100,000 church debt. And they decided to stay and minister.

Since that painful split, the church has grown to average 110 in Sunday School, they just celebrated the second anniversary of their new building, and they are reaching out into the community and the world in Christian service.

Pastor David Lee, a master of divinity student at New Orleans Seminary, came in July 1978 after the January 1978 split. They could only offer \$100 per week for salary, including supplements from First Church, Long Beach, First Church, Bay St. Louis, and Bay Vista Church, which sponsored the original mission that became Commission Road.

"It's not very difficult to create a vision where there's potential," says Lee. He helped the membership work through their feelings after the split and together they worked on the community image. They had become known as "the charismatic church," an image which remained even after the split. With faith, and development of a "love base," Lee says the community sees the church now as loving and caring, and having unity.

"What has developed is a strong unifying spirit," says Lee. "We had to put people to work," with a lot of young Christians and people without a Southern Baptist background. His Sunday School director came out of a Nazarene background. The self-supporting kindergarten which takes in 3, 4, and 5 year olds,

(Continued on page 2)



Jeff Mask minister to youth at First Church, Summit, tells a Bible story to a backyard Bible club in Long Beach, where his church participated in a missions trip helping Commission Road Baptist Church.

Missionary Taxes May Be Cut Back

By Stan Hasty
WASHINGTON (BP) — Aides to the two most powerful members of the Senate Finance Committee are optimistic that H.R. 1319, the bill to restore the \$20,000 foreign income exclusion for missionaries and other charitable workers overseas, will pass Congress this year.

But neither they nor the leading lobbyist pushing for passage of the measure would flatly predict passage as legislators recessed for the Democratic National Convention.

Chances for final approval of the largely non-controversial bill hinge in part on passage of a tax cut measure, according to most observers. If Congress balks at approving the tax cut now sought by most Republican members and key Democrats, including Senate Finance Committee Chairman Russell B. Long, D-La., H. R. 1319 and other lesser tax bills will be brought to the floor on their own strengths.

The \$20,000 exclusion, eliminated by the Foreign Earned Income Act of 1978, would cost U.S.-based missionary boards and societies and other charitable organizations millions of dollars in income taxes on salaries beginning with taxable year 1979. The Internal Revenue Service recently approved a four-month extension to Oct. 15 of the due date for 1979 taxes for such citizens, many of whom pay income taxes to the countries where they work.

According to Southern Baptist Convention Foreign Mission Board officials, the cost to the Richmond, Va.-based body alone would approach \$1 million this year.

Jay Morris, a Washington attorney whose firm represents the International Agricultural Development Service and who has led the fight for passage of H.R. 1319, said in an interview that H.R. 1319 will likely come to the Senate floor on its own. He said the odds are "already past even" against passage of the tax cut measure and that the best chance for H.R. 1319 rests "on its own merits."

At the same time, Morris emphasized the unpredictability of a potential tax cut because of the supercharged political atmosphere on Capitol Hill with the fall elections looming ever larger.

He called "very encouraging" inclusion of the overseas charitable worker exclusive on a "must pass" list of pending bills from Senate majority leader Robert C. Byrd, D-W.Va. Byrd's role as floor leader will become increasingly vital to passage of any legislation as Congress moves toward

adjournment, probably by early October. Morris said it is "extremely unlikely" that Congress would return after the November elections for a special session. A new Congress will be sworn in next January.

Long, whom many congressional observers consider the most powerful single member of the Senate, remains committed to passage of H.R. 1319, according to his legislative aide assigned

to the measure. A basic cause of delay, the aide said, has been a standing threat from Republican senators to sabotage any tax bill by attaching to it a tax cut amendment.

Long himself, during a recent trip to Louisiana, gave strong reassurances that he will fight for the bill, either in the larger tax cut bill he is sponsoring or on its own.

(Continued on page 5)

Baptist Youth Night To Avoid "Swamping"

The Mississippi Coliseum in Jackson was swamped twice last year—once during the Easter Flood, and again during Mississippi Baptist Youth Night.

The Baptists can't stop the floods, but they are trying to accommodate the flood of young people who want to attend the yearly program of inspiration and fellowship.

This year, Youth Night 1980 is offering two identical programs on Friday evening, August 15: the first from 5-7 p.m., the second from 8-10 p.m. This early session will help groups which travel from afar to get home earlier,

and, unless more than 20,000 youths show up, it should help the space squeeze.

Jim Henry, pastor of First Baptist Church, Orlando, Fla., is main speaker. He is joined on the platform by Paul Smith, of Dallas, Tex., who will sing, and Steadman Shealy, quarterback of the University of Alabama football team who will give his Christian testimony.

The Jeanette Clift George After Dinner Players from Houston, Tex., will also perform.

This program is sponsored by the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board.

Associational Officers To Train On August 23

Simultaneous sessions for Associational Officers' Training will be held on Aug. 23 in the First Baptist Churches of Oxford, Carthage, and Columbia.

Developed by the Program Directors' office of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, the sessions will all begin at 9 a.m., continuing through to 12:30, and followed by a complimentary lunch. Chester Vaughn is MCB program director.

The sessions are designed to provide leader training for all associational officers.

Coordinators of the sessions will be Paul Harrell at Oxford, Foy Rogers at Carthage, and Bryant Cummings at Columbia. The three are department directors on the convention board staff.

In the Sunday School area sessions will include training for Sunday School

directors, adult, youth, children's and preschool directors. In Church Training training is offered for directors, and directors of the four age groups: adult, youth, children, and preschool.

Brotherhood directors, Baptist Men's directors and Royal Ambassador leaders will receive training.

In Woman's Missionary Union training is offered to directors of WMU, Baptist Women, Baptist Young Women, Acteens, Girls in Action, and Mission Friends.

Training is scheduled for directors of missions, associational moderators, clerks, and missions committee chairmen.

Also included is training for evangelism committee chairmen, Church Music directors, Stewardship Committee chairmen, church administration coordinators, and Christian action committee chairmen.

Religious Spokesmen Assail Helms School Prayer Measure

WASHINGTON (BP) — Legislation which would strip federal courts of jurisdiction in school prayer cases came under attack from leading religious spokesmen and the U.S. Department of Justice as a House subcommittee opened hearings on the volatile issue.

Assistant Attorney General John M. Harmon, who attended the hearings, predicted that Attorney General Benjamin R. Civiletti would recommend a presidential veto in the event Congress passes the measure.

Brief oral statements from most congressmen on the nine-member panel indicated, however, that it is unlikely that the so-called "Helms Amendment," named after chief sponsor U.S. Sen. Jesse Helms, R-N.C., will be voted out favorably.

Subcommittee Chairman Robert W. Kastenmeier, D-Wis., said in opening remarks that discussion on the heated issue has thus far lacked "thoughtful" and "constructive" content. He expressed hope that his panel's hearings "will raise the level of debate."

Ranking Republican member Robert McClory, R-Ill., joined Kastenmeier in opposing the Helms language, which would remove jurisdiction over the local prayer issue from all federal courts, including the Supreme Court.

Representatives from mainline Protestant denominations and the American Jewish community told the subcommittee the Helms proposal not only violates the First Amendment's ban on an establishment of religion, but also threatens the fabric of the Bill of Rights.

Speaking for a panel representing the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs, American Baptist Churches General Secretary Robert C. Campbell declared that "government's lack of competence in religious matters is a fundamental legal principle in the United States."

Campbell said that prayers mandated by government authorities have the effect of destroying "the true nature of prayer." By definition, the American Baptist executive said, prayer "is an act which is and must be voluntary."

Campbell, whose denomination's general board adopted a strongly worded statement opposing the Helms amendment in June, was joined by Grady C. Cothen, president of the Southern Baptist Convention's Sunday

School Board, and C. J. Malloy, general secretary of the Progressive National Baptist Convention, Inc.

Cothen, pointing to a similar Southern Baptist action during its annual session in June, told the subcommittee

UPDATE

By Larry Chesser
WASHINGTON (BP) — Texas evangelist James Robison, who appeared uninvited before a House subcommittee considering the school prayer issue, said testimony the previous day by the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs did not represent Southern Baptists.

Robison said he was "appalled" by that position and said "the Southern Baptists who stood and made their statement here do not represent Southern Baptists."

Robison was allowed to speak, though that is irregular for uninvited participants, when William Bright, president of Campus Crusade for Christ referred one of his questions to Robison to answer.

Subcommittee Chairman Robert W. Kastenmeier, D-Wis., questioned Robison and Bright on reports that the Southern Baptist Convention in June overwhelmingly adopted a resolution opposing efforts to circumvent the Supreme Court decisions on prayer in schools and defeated a substitute resolution calling for support of the Helms Amendment.

Robison replied that the 14,000 messengers at the convention did not represent 13 million Southern Baptists.

that because "historically Baptists have been dissenters," they are concerned that the "rights of the majority should not compromise the rights of the minority." Southern Baptists, he said, do not want matters of religious faith put in the hands of local authorities whose decisions cannot be tested in federal courts.

Malloy, new chief executive of the 800,000-member Progressive National Baptist Convention, declared his opposition to the Helms language in view of his denomination's commitment to separation of church and state.

Also appearing during the first of two days of testimony presently scheduled by the subcommittee were M. William Howard, president of the

National Council of Churches, and Meyer Eisenberg, chairman of the National Law Committee, Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith.

The Helms proposal, passed by the U. S. Senate in April 1979 as an amendment to S.450, a bill dealing with Supreme Court jurisdictional questions, has languished in Kastenmeier's subcommittee without action until the present hearings. The Wisconsin legislator scheduled the hearings, to be continued in August, after support grew for a device to bypass the subcommittee and bring the issue directly to the House floor.

The bypass effort has been led by U.S. Rep. Philip Crane, R-Ill., who at latest count had succeeded in securing the signatures of 172 members of the House on a "discharge petition" which would bring the issue to a vote. A simple majority of the House, or 218 members, would have to sign to bypass the committee procedure.

Efforts to discharge the bill from the subcommittee have stalled, however, in light of Kastenmeier's decision to hold hearings.

Christians Take It On The Chin

TUPELO, Miss. (EP) — Christian values take a real beating on prime-time television while individuals depicted as Christians don't fare much better, according to a recently completed study made by the National Federation for Decency.

The organization found that non-Christian values were depicted in a favorable light nearly three times as often as traditional Christian values and individuals depicted as Christians were presented in a positive manner just slightly more often than in a negative image.

General Foods was named as the top sponsor of non-Christian values while Prudential Insurance was cited as the top Christian value program sponsor. In addition, NBC was the only network whose overall programs were rated more Christian value oriented than non-Christian.

Television presented 12.2 non-Christian values per programming hour while Christian values were depicted (Continued on page 5)



Central Hills Camp Center

Work on the camp center building is moving along, but a great deal is left to be done. (More pictures on page 3.)

Mississippi BSU Missionary Reports

From: MARCIA STROHM (MC), Fairview Heights, Ill.

One evening, two of my partners and I went down to the street corner not far from our church. We talked with five teenage black guys sitting on the railing. It felt so natural to learn about their world as they shared problems and concerns with us. I went away feeling as though a candle of hope had been lighted in their hearts.

TANYA ROWE (MDJC), Richmond, Va.

Buster and Darren were in my youth VBS class at Deep Run Baptist Church. That week I was teaching witnessing to the class. The first couple of days I was really burdened because the subject matter was so deep and I knew that some of the kids weren't saved. I prayed that the Lord would help me to teach in a way to make the Christians see a need to witness and the lost a need to be saved. After this prayer, I left it all in God's hands. Friday morning during prayer time, Darren and Buster asked the Lord to come into their hearts and lives. Later, Buster thanked me for helping him come to know Christ. Just knowing I have been used as a tool in God's work and that He allowed me to see a harvest when I had been content with seed planting has been a tremendous and indescribable blessing.

CANDRA GRAY (MUW), Anchorage, Alaska

While doing VBS at Faith-East, I had a little girl named Cassey. She came every day yet just sat in a corner looking at the floor. Every once in awhile she would come sit by me or join us in the song circle. I felt it was probably a home problem, but she never said a word. One day Cassey came to me before VBS started. She told me about her grandfather who had just had a heart attack and was in a coma. She talked and I listened. It brought back memories of a personal and similar experience. Although she was only 12 years old, Cassey knew from then on that there could be more to her life. She had a peace that God was in control. At the end of the week she gave her life to Christ. It was beautiful to see such

child-like faith and to have the privilege to be a witness!

From: PAM RANDLE (BMC), Devil's Den State Park, West Fork, Ariz.

I had the opportunity to share Christ with a young girl named Angie. It was a totally new experience for me because Angie hadn't heard much about Christ. She told me that she doesn't go to church. As I talked to her, my heart hurt because I could not make her understand. I had to be reminded that what I said could not save her. The Holy Spirit will use what I said. I just put as much on her level as I could. Angie did not accept Christ while she was with me. I just pray that someone will water the seed that is planted in her heart.

GREG STEWART (Ole Miss), New Haven, Conn.

Probably the most meaningful experience I have had since coming to New Haven has been the response of the children we have come in contact with. A lot of our work has been done in a typical "rough neighborhood" with a predominantly black and Puerto Rican population. You can really sense the need for love and acceptance from the children. And their response has been heartwarming. There are times when they are literally hanging all over us. There are also those times when we feel tired, discouraged, and really wonder why we came up here. But one look in the eyes of those kids tells us why we came and convinces us that we're not that tired after all.

MARILYN PARKS (DSU), Baptist Children's Village, Independence, Miss.

One night after a Bible study/rap session, I felt like a failure. None of the kids would open up during the session. After the session three girls came up at different times to talk with me privately. It touched me to hear of their concern for others and their own desire to grow spiritually. One of the boys who was very cynical during the study was saved just last week. I thank God for all He has taught me, and most of all for sending me to Farrow Manor.



In a panel discussion of problems facing ministers of music, leaders are: Donald Bennett of Colonial Heights Church, Jackson, standing; Bill Reynolds, of Southwestern Seminary; Bill Barnes, Morrison Heights Church, Clinton; and Harrel Wilcox, Mt. Zion Church, Columbus.



When the Bible teacher got sick at the last minute, Convention Board Church music director, Dan Hall, asked James Scirratt to add those duties to his worship leader work during the conference. Scirratt, with his wife, Vera, shown here, dutifully took over both jobs and spoke six times to the music leaders. Scirratt is pastor of Woodland Hills Church, Jackson.



Some people "rough it" at Gulfshore. This group from Cleary Baptist Church, Florence, brought a travel trailer and were accommodated at Gulfshore's camping area. The recreational vehicle sites (10 of them) offer full hookups (water, sewer and electricity) for \$5 per night plus 50 cents per day participation fee for conferences. Pictured left to right are Shelton Weatherby, music director at Cleary, and a retired Jackson fireman, Carol Jean Applewhite, Cleary organist; Pat (Mrs. Shelton) Weatherby; Ruth Stevens, Cleary children's choir director; and Debbie Seitz, Cleary pianist. Shelton said the women were to sleep in the truck. They are enjoying a light lunch before the opening of the Church Music Leadership Conference, July 24-26. Though this group did not take Gulfshore up on it, Gulfshore offers weekly or individual meal tickets to campers.



Betty Regal, below, and Janice McGaugh, above, paint the church kitchen.



Dealos Moak, in glasses, hangs a room divider to help increase education space at the cramped church building.



Tommy Lewman washes glue off a youngster after the morning session of the backyard Bible club.



Meticulous work, these Bible clubs.



Ronnie Parker, minister of music at First Church, Summit, leads a backyard Bible club session in the hot Gulf Coast morning. Temperature this day hovered at 100 degrees. Tommy Lewman, also of the Summit church is at right and Janice McGaugh of Summit is at left with her back to camera.

Bill Reynolds Asks:

What Will Happen Sunday At 11 A.M.?

By Tim Nicholas

Bill Reynolds was at Gulfshore recently to talk to church music leaders about what will happen in their churches at 11 a.m. on Sunday. The Gulfshore event was Church Music Leadership Week, July 24-26 and Reynolds came to discuss promotional ideas and practical help for music leaders.

Reynolds, former director of the Church Music department of the Baptist Sunday School Board in Nashville, is doing a one year stint as guest professor in ministry of music at Southwestern Seminary, Ft. Worth. In an interview over a pork chop in the Gulfshore dining hall, Reynolds touched on some of the issues facing ministers of music today.

The Sunday morning, 11 a.m. comment was brought on by Reynolds' idea that serious planning is needed for a worship service. Often, he says, "The preacher gets the message, the minister of music gets a couple of hymns, and they walk out and do it."

Reynolds says churches have "drifted into a show biz atmosphere." He explained Christians have moved into an "era of sacred entertainment — if we can get a Bev Shea or a Cynthia Clawson on Sunday night, we can pack the house."

What is the alternative? — "to major on the worship atmosphere which is ours alone. We can't compete with the world," says Reynolds. "The church gathers to worship God — this is where our monopoly is."

He spoke of the ministry of the congregation — "providing ministry to the spiritual needs of the congregation and proclamation of the Lord to the unbeliever. In none of this is entertainment a factor."

Reynolds says that some of the problems ministers of music ask about the most include "How can I survive after I'm fifty?" and "How do I survive a pastoral change?" "We're living in the day of the hero staff," says Reynolds. He likened some pastoral changes at that of the arrival of Steve Sloan to Ole Miss — he wanted to bring in his own coaches. Many pastors today seem to want to bring in their own staff when they come to a new church. Reynolds said the problem hits the already present staffers hard — "what about their call?" Reynolds asks.

Reynolds noted that "church music does not operate in isolation" — that it is changing with the times. Rock music, of which Reynolds says he is

not a fan, has "impacted" every area of music, from the symphonic area to public school band music, not to mention Christian music. And for Southern Baptists church music enrollment is increasing — since 1957 only two years have not shown increases in enrollment. Now, with about one and a half million enrolled in church music programs, "more and more churches are saying to music programs 'we're counting on you to hold our kids,'" says Reynolds.

He decries the fact that doctrinal training in Southern Baptist churches is falling by the wayside, but he says the church music programs should not be blamed. "Pastors discovered Church Training was no longer getting the folks in," says Reynolds, and they looked for a replacement."

Reynolds sees part of the increase in church music enrollment because more and more churches have seminary trained leaders and "are utilizing a music program for a major source of vitality." He says there are more than 1,800 undergraduate music majors in Baptist colleges planning on ministry, and 875 graduate music seminarians in the six Southern Baptist seminaries. A still young field for musicians is in career missions — the Foreign Mission Board has under appointment 115 music missionaries. The Home Mission Board, he says, is still using volunteers in its programs in pioneer areas. The future, he feels, looks good for Christian music ministry.

Churches, Sunday School Departments, Parents—

- Consider this: giving students going away to college subscriptions to the Baptist Record.
- The college years are an important time to stay knowledgeable in missions and church life. The Baptist Record offers that knowledge.
- Your church office has information on adding subscriptions.

The Executive Secretary Speaks . . .

Bibles Go To Afghans

Southern Baptists consistently lead all other denominations in their support of the American Bible Society. Baptists are a people of "THE BOOK" and the American Bible Society has consistently worked with Baptists across the world in Bible distribution.

Recently I received one of the many letters I receive each year from Arthur Borden, secretary of church relations at the Bible House, thanking me for the support which Mississippi churches give.

Borden was thanking Mississippi Baptists for a gift that had helped place 150,000 Scripture Selections and

15,000 Gospels of Matthew which had been published in the Pashito language for distribution to refugees from Afghanistan who are now in Pakistan. The demand is so great that "it will soon be necessary to reprint these to meet the demand."

During these days of world unrest we need to pray for our missionaries who have the opportunity to use the American Bible Society tool, "a certain truth" in the hands of those who hear nothing but uncertain sounds. Thank God for the American Bible Society.

Earl Kelly

VISITING . . . OR MOVING TO ATLANTA?

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Takes On New Meaning

DETROIT (BP) — To get out the message of Jesus Christ; that was one of the goals of a booth sponsored by Southern Baptists at the Republican National Convention.

More than 6,000 pieces of Christian literature were distributed during the six days of volunteer operation at the booth, sponsored by the Greater Detroit Baptist Association, the Baptist State Convention of Michigan and the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board.

At least one man committed himself to Christ as a result of evangelizing at the booth — the only Christian outreach facility at the convention.

"It's really a surprise to see them here," said Arney Arms, a Southern Baptist and convention guest from Elizabethton, Tenn.

Arms and his family were strangers to Detroit and after spotting the Southern Baptist booth, said it was nice to talk to people with whom they had something in common.

That sort of comment pleases Larry Martin, director of the Greater Detroit Baptist Association.

Plans for a Southern Baptist presence at the convention were hatched last year after the Republicans announced Detroit as their convention site. Plans to distribute literature on Detroit streets were scratched because of anticipated security around the convention center, Martin said, "so we came up with the idea of a booth."

The facility was near the center of activity in the 70-story Detroit Plaza Hotel. Thousands of delegates and sightseers at the convention exhibit hall strolled by for literature or a button which said, "Ask Me About the GOP."

The Southern Baptist version of GOP was not Grand Old Party, but "Gospel of Peace."

Despite being at a political convention, the Baptist message was non-political with passersby getting a shopping list of material about Southern Baptist concerns such as world hunger, alcoholism, race relations and ecology.

A 23-year-old man committed himself to Christ after talking at the booth at length with Suzanne Blount, summer missionary in Detroit and resi-

dent of Leesburg, Fla.

The whole operation was aided and observed by Ken Prickett, a consultant on special projects for the Home Mission Board. The Detroit booth is a prototype for similar operations at other events, particularly a world's fair planned for Knoxville, Tenn., in 1982, Prickett said.

Southern Seminary To Hold CTEC: 'Marriage Enrichment'

LOUISVILLE, Ky. — The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Ky., will hold a Continuing Theological Education Conference (CTEC) September 8-11, entitled "Marriage Enrichment."

Led by two Southern Seminary professors, "Marriage Enrichment" will "give you an opportunity to learn experientially about marriage enrichment," according to CTEC Director Russell Bennett.

Andrew D. Lester, associate professor of Psychology of Religion and Judith L. Lester, instructor in Psychology of Religion at the seminary, will head the sessions which will focus on communicating needs, expressing affirmation, understanding roles and resolving conflict.

A \$50 registration fee must be in to the Ministries Studies Office by September 5. The mailing address is: Ministries Studies, 2825 Lexington Road, Louisville, Ky. For further information, contact the Ministries Studies Office by calling, toll-free, 1-800-626-5525.

Seattle (BP) — Delegates of the Reformed Presbyterian Church, Evangelical Synod voted 157 to 4 here to begin formal action to enter the larger Presbyterian Church in America. Under the proposal, members of the Evangelical Synod would become members of the PCA en masse, thus avoiding protracted negotiations that would result if the two bodies tried to merge.

Central Hills Baptist Retreat

As the season nears an end at Central Hills Baptist Retreat for Royal Ambassador camping, there have been an average of about 30 decisions each week. One week there were 49 decisions, according to Rusty Griffin, Royal Ambassador director for Mississippi Baptists.

The last five weeks at the camp saw capacity groups of 100 boys on the grounds. The first three weeks were at about 70 percent capacity, Griffin said.

The two dad and lad weekends were over capacity. In addition to the 100 boys camping there during Royal Ambassador weeks there have been 31 staff members this summer.

Of the 31 staff members there are eight paid counselors and two volunteer counselors each week, and there is a missionary in attendance each week.



The boys line up for soft drinks at break time.



The maintenance shop and trailer shed were also built by volunteer labor. Central Hills is the parking area for the Mississippi Baptist Disaster relief equipment.



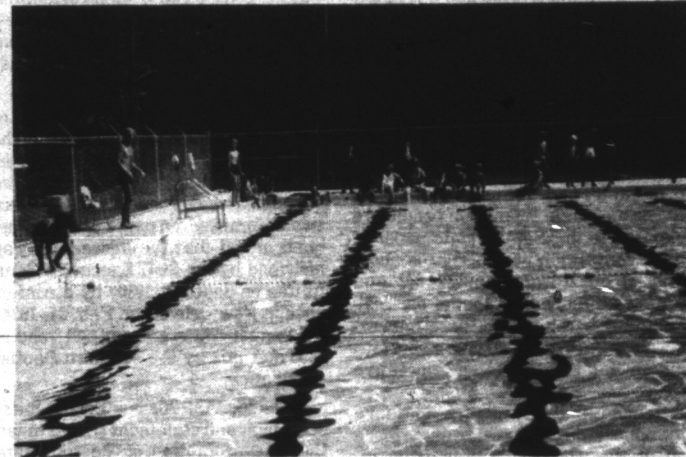
Men of Pleasant Hill Baptist Church, New Albany, did a great deal of the work on the maintenance shop and also worked with the horses. The pastor is Harvey Sewell.

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The on-site residence for camp director Dan West is nearing completion but has some work left to be done.



The swimming pool is a popular spot during the hot weather.



The horse barn at Central Hills was built by volunteer labor.



The horses always provide an interesting activity.

WMU Camps To Interpret 1980-81 Baptist Emphases

WMU Camps at several locations in the state Aug. 11-27 will offer leadership training on all age levels of WMU organizations also these WMU Camps will provide interpretation of several facets of WMU and denominational emphases for the 1980-81 work year in Baptist life.

Primary in these will be the State Mission Season of Prayer, the Foreign Mission Study, and the WMU National Enlargement Plan.

The State Mission Season of Prayer observed in September each year, along with the receiving of the Margaret Lackey State Mission Offering, provides for prayer experiences concerning items vital to Mississippi which are not budgeted elsewhere.

The 1980 Foreign Mission Study (this is the activity which was formerly called the Foreign Mission Graded Series Study) will take participants into the

future. Many helps and resources are available. The camp emphasis will explain these.

Part of the plans of WMU include, over a two year period, enlargement. The National Enlargement Plan will be introduced at camp, and Mississippi's initial plans for the campaign will be revealed.

WMU camps are scheduled as follows:

First Church, Booneville: Aug. 11, 7-9 p.m.; and Aug. 12, 9:45 a.m.-2 p.m.

First Church, Charleston: Aug. 12, 7-9 p.m.; and Aug. 13, 9:45 a.m.-2 p.m.

First Church, Louisville: Aug. 14, 9:45 a.m.-2 p.m.; repeating at 7-9 p.m.

Camp Garaywa: Aug. 18, 7-9 p.m.; Aug. 19, 9:45 a.m.-2 p.m.; Aug. 20, 9:45 a.m.-2 p.m.; and Aug. 21, 9:45 a.m.-2 p.m.

First Church, Lucedale: Aug. 26, 7-9 p.m.; Aug. 27, 9:45 a.m.-2 p.m.

Leaders Plan Talks On Alcohol, Drug Problems

Religious and lay leaders are invited to a three day study to discuss the impact of alcohol and other drugs on contemporary life. The meeting, set for Gulfshore Baptist Assembly, Dec. 4-6, is being planned by an ad hoc committee chaired by Owen Cooper of Yazoo City. Planners are from Mississippi, Alabama, and Louisiana.

There will be five plenary sessions addressed by seven area and national leaders. There will be twelve workshops, repeated so that each person in attendance can elect to attend four.

Several exhibits will display helpful material and a number of films related to the subject will be shown.

Among those who have accepted to speak at the plenary sessions are: Bishop Roger Blanchard, retired

Bishop of the Episcopal Church and Chairman of the North Conway Institute, Boston, Mass.; Senator Harold Hughes, former U.S. Senator and former Governor of Iowa, Royal Oak, Md.; Dan Ireland, executive director of Alabama Council of Alcohol Problems, Birmingham, Ala.; and Ashton Brisolar, executive director of the Committee on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse for Greater New Orleans, New Orleans, La.

Other members of the planning committee include: Clark Hensley, Sister Anna Marie Franco, and Paul Harris, all of Jackson; John Smith, Birmingham, Ala.; and Ed Lilly and Charles Thomas of New Orleans, La.

For further information please write Owen Cooper, P. O. Box 388, Yazoo City, Miss., 39194.

Pastors' Retreat Will Offer Arnold, Beasley, And Perkins

A Mississippi Baptist Pastors' Retreat is set for Oct. 6-8 at Camp Garaywa in Clinton. It begins at 10 a.m. on the 6th, and ends at 8 a.m. on the 8th.

Stuart Arnold, James Beasley, and Clifton Perkins are featured.

Arnold, pastor of Citadel Square Baptist Church, Charleston, S.C., will lead sessions on "Resources for Preaching from Colossians."

Beasley, minister of music and youth at First Baptist Church, Crystal Springs, will be music leader for the retreat.

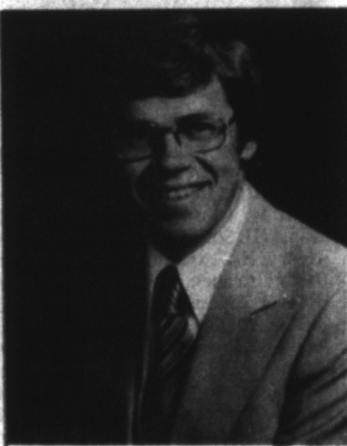
And Perkins, who directs church-minister relations for the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, along with Beasley, will lead a special "Early Bird" session Wednesday, Oct. 8 at 7 a.m.

Other topics for the program include skill development sessions on effective planning, a church on mission, and dynamic leadership, plus features on church growth.

Cost will be \$15 to cover meals, lodging, and insurance. Send registration and \$15 to Leon Emery, Box 539, Jackson, Miss. 39205.

YOUTH NIGHT 1980

August 15



Message: Jim Henry
Pastor, FBC, Orlando, Fla.

Mississippi Coliseum In Jackson

Choose From 5-7 P.M. or
Two Sessions: 8-10 P.M.



Testimony:
Steadman Shealy
Quarterback,
Univ. of Alabama

Music: Paul Smith
Waco, Tex.

The After Dinner Players



The Baptist Record

OFFICIAL JOURNAL OF THE MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION

Editorials

Baptist state papers . . .

Goal of 2 million subscribers

A few years back the Southern Baptist Convention established a goal of 2 million subscribers for the Baptist state papers by 1980. This goal was affirmed by the convention this year in St. Louis, though time is short for its attainment. The total, according to the latest figures available, now stands at 1,659,039.

That figure is 140,961 short, but this is not at all bad. It means that across the nation some 6.5 million people are exposed to the Baptist state paper in their convention areas. That is about half of our total membership and somewhat more than that of our resident membership. The Mississippi experience is a great deal better; but on a nationwide basis, it is an impressive figure.

It means that 6.5 million people have the opportunity of knowing much more about the world-wide witnessing efforts of their churches than would be possible otherwise.

In his report to the Southern Baptist Convention this year, Franklin Paschall, the First Baptist Church, Nashville, pastor who is chairman of the SBC committee on Baptist state papers, pointed out that there is an informal agreement between the state conventions and the Southern Baptist Convention which "recognized that

the funds allocated to Baptist papers will be considered a joint denominational cause. Unquestionably, these funds will benefit both the state conventions and the Southern Baptist Convention."

Paschall noted that a reminder of this agreement is to be found in the book, *Witness to the World*, by Porter Routh, recently retired executive secretary-treasurer of the SBC Executive Committee, on pages 58 to 66. Paschall added that the agreement was affirmed by the SBC Executive Committee on Sept. 11, 1930; by a conference in New Orleans on Feb. 21, 1934; by another conference in 1951; and in 1956 and 1971 by the Southern Baptist Convention.

He added that this Southern Baptist sentiment and statement should mean that the promotion of Baptist state papers "is the responsibility of all Southern Baptists."

Paschall's recommendations were adopted by this year's convention. He asked that the effort to reach the 2 million circulation figure be continued and that a goal of 10 percent increase in circulation per year be set as a part of Bold Mission Thrust. He asked that the editors of the papers study closely and utilize the information developed by

the Readership Survey of Eleven State Baptist Papers in 1977. And he suggested that Southern Baptist leaders share their expectations with the papers, that they use their influence to encourage churches to subscribe to the state papers, and that they feature as effectively as possible the state papers on the state convention programs.

Surely we will not make the 2 million goal, but we continue to inch toward it. And the Baptist Record could be hard pressed to attain a goal of 10 percent increase in circulation annually, for that would be 12,800 new subscribers each year. We have been and will continue to work for new subscribers, however. Our increase in circulation through the years has been gratifying indeed.

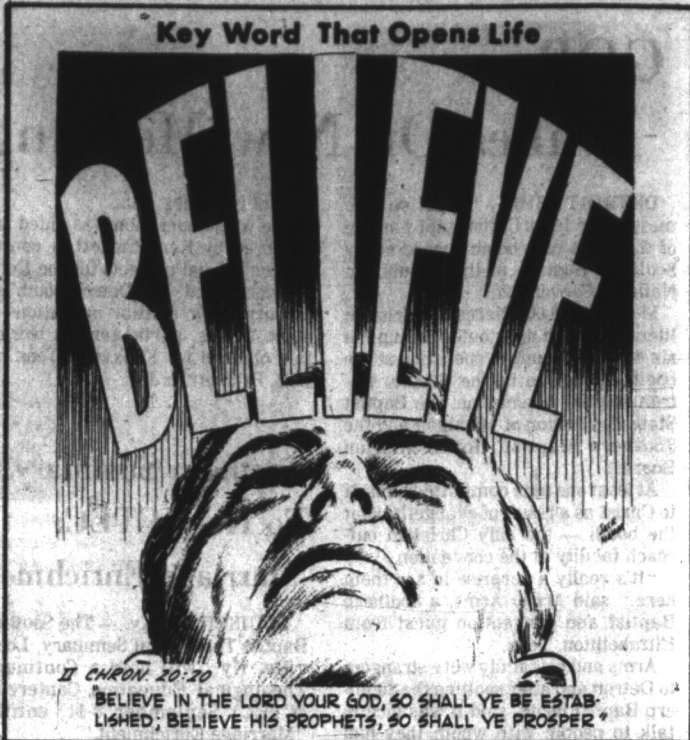
The Baptist Record was one of those 11 papers that participated in the 1977 readership survey, and we have used its findings exhaustively. We continue to search for ways of making the paper more meaningful to the readers.

And Baptist leaders both in Mississippi and nationwide are aware that the Baptist Record is always happy to be made aware of their dreams, hopes, expectations, and achievements. Though in every one of the 34 state papers the editor is responsible for the

paper's contents, there is no editor who doesn't realize his responsibility to give support to the denominational programs and endeavors. Some do it in one way and some in another. At the Baptist Record we promote programs of both the Mississippi Baptist Convention and the Southern Baptist Convention without equivocation, figuring that this material is as much news as any other Baptist happening. We feel that church members need this information in order to be better able to carry out their duties in church life.

While the Southern Baptist Convention has no responsibility in the area of the Baptist state papers, it does have this committee, that represents the papers before the convention. And surely we are appreciative of the continued Southern Baptist interest in and support of the 34 Baptist state papers. The Baptist Record's main responsibility, of course, is to the Baptists of Mississippi, and we will continue to seek to serve those in our own state and also Southern Baptists across the nation to the very best of our ability.

We have a fine staff of dedicated, hard-working people at the Baptist Record. They are accomplishing their tasks in a worthwhile and commendable manner. —DTM



Faces And Places

By Anne Washburn McWilliams

Neshoba County Fair

August in Mississippi is the Neshoba County Fair. From Gordon Sansing I heard about Neshoba County. The second year I lived in Jackson (1954) Ollie Faye Wood (now Mrs. Paul Woodward) and Rosa Hooper and I shared an apartment at 821 N. Congress. Philadelphia was Ollie Faye's home town, and all year she sang the glories of the Neshoba County Fair. Yet I had to experience it to believe it. Last year a party at Jane Tannehill's cabin, a spend-the-night at Beth Darby's cabin, a midnight visit to the pavilion gave me a minute taste of the now-made-world-famous-by-National Geographic gigantic houseparty.

In one of the 350 (?) cabins, Beth, who turned out to be Ollie Faye's cousin, served me, and half a dozen others, one of those celebrated Southern home-cooked meals. It featured chicken pie, lemon cheese cake, and dried apple puffs. Sitting in the front porch swing, I met a little boy named Seth Thomas (like the clock), his grandmother who lives in Philadelphia, and his grandparents who are members of Salem Baptist Church near Decatur.

At 1:30 a.m. children and adults were sitting in the middle of one street playing a game of finger-snapping rhythm. Music and politics still fought for attention. I slipped away to the still deserted cabin, and upstairs to a bed. A cool breeze was blowing through the foot-wide screened airspace beneath the eaves. The cabin reminded me somewhat of the shotgun houses in the Delta, except for being two-story. I stuck my fingers in my ears and shut my eyes.

Next morning at eight the whole community was still asleep. I could even hear the birds chirp. I left a goodbye note for my hostess and tiptoed out the gate.

As Wordsworth said, "The world is too much with us, getting and spending. . . ." What I needed, I decided last week, was a long afternoon to relax at the Neshoba County Fair.

As soon as the ticket taker stamped my hand with red ink, I moved to the shade of a tree and breathed deep of the atmosphere — and the odors of the stock exhibit. Down the hill behind the

grandstand I saw a tiny baby on a pallet being fanned by a babysitter in white uniform. My friends and I shuffled through the dampened wood shavings that carpeted Founders' Square. We stared at residents and their visitors gathered on the porches, upstairs and down. Heat soon drove us to the lemonade stand. Then all afternoon we held the big paper cups, until we had eaten all the ice and even the inside of the lemon peel.

Red dust swirled upward from the horse racing track. A loud speaker announced that a little boy was lost: "He's a blonde, and wearing a red T-shirt." An enormous truck backed up to the press area, "to hold the TV equipment." Thousands of people, in every kind of attire, sat on the bleachers or stood jammed together on the grounds, and on the porches of the cabins, talking, laughing, shouting. Clouds and lightning sent several to their cars, but not many. A lightning began to fall. Umbrellas opened. The woman in front of me put a plastic laundry bag over her straw hat, but I only had a map of the fair to shield me from the elements. A policeman made some kids come down from the roof of the exhibit hall. Helicopters hovered like squawky mother hens.

In the Exhibit Hall the 1,000-member Neshoba County Baptist Association displayed photos of its 35 churches.

Kermit Sharp, director of missions for the association, told me he preached Sunday morning at the fair (as he has done for ten years) to a crowd of at least 400 under the pavilion and 600 or more standing in the square.

Red, white, and blue balloons shot upward, wavered, and gamboled away. Flags flying from cabins formed arches across the alleys. The mouth-watering odor of stick-dogs reminded us it was nearly supertime. At dusk a choir from First Baptist, Philadelphia, was to sing at the pavilion. No wonder Reagan said, "Nancy and I have never seen anything like this, because there isn't anything else like this!"

Family Reunions, family traditions, go on there, even after 91 years. Mississippi — at least in Neshoba County — still believes that the family unit is important.

Church Goes All-Out For First Missionary

RICHMOND, Va. — Salem Baptist Church, Lincolnton, N. C., went all-out for their first missions volunteer.

They not only chartered an airplane to see Barry Green commissioned as a missionary journeyman; now they are collecting money for a motorcycle for him to use in his work in the Philippines.

Green has served as minister of youth and music at the church since 1978, serving parttime while attending Gardner-Webb College, Boiling Springs, N. C., and then fulltime from his graduation in December 1979 until journeyman training in June 1980.

Thirty members of the church flew to the service in Richmond, Va., on a DC-3 which was donated by Jung Aviation and Radio Service, a branch of

Wycliffe Bible Translators. Charles Cranford, the church's pastor, and Buck Watson, a layman who works for JAARS, worked out the details. Three JAARS pilots donated their services to fly the plane and the church paid fuel and landing expenses. The same plane was used to take Foreign Mission Board relief supplies to Dominican Republic after Hurricane David.

Green didn't seem to be surprised when he heard about his church chartering the plane. "It is typical for them to do something out of the ordinary like this," he commented. He said he had not been serving the church a year when they sent him to the Holy Land.

And now they are collecting \$1,000 for a motorcycle for him to use in his music work at Clark Field Church, Angeles, Philippines.

Special Edition of Royal Service Marks 75th Year

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. — With more than 335,000 subscribers, Royal Service magazine, published by Woman's Missionary Union, has the largest circulation of any missions magazine in the Southern Baptist Convention.

This summer Royal Service begins its 75th year. To celebrate its anniversary, WMU will publish the Royal Service 75th Anniversary Album.

The 88-page full-color album relives the first 74 years of Royal Service in photographs and print.

Copies of the album will be available after November 1, 1980 only to those who place prepublication orders by September 1.

To order, write Anniversary Album, Woman's Missionary Union, 600 North 20th Street, Birmingham, Alabama 35203.

The cost is \$6. VISA and Master Charge are accepted.

Guest Opinion . . .

Daniel, a peculiar, timely book

By Edwin B. Tichenor
Pelahatchie

The Book of Daniel has been attacked as a fraudulent work, authored by one living after the prophesied events — "prophecy after the facts." Yet it has the highest possible accreditation, that given by the Lord, Himself.

In Matt. 24:15, the Lord referred, as the great tribulation, to "the abomination of desolation spoken of by Daniel, the prophet." This remark settles two critical questions: The infallible Christ authenticated Daniel as a prophet, not as some anonymous hoaxster who wrote after the events; also, not as so often asserted later by critics, that the book was merely an historical account of events prior to the desecration of the Temple, and during that period, completely fulfilled by Antiochus Epiphanes; Christ, on earth centuries after that impious act, looked forward to a yet unfulfilled "abomination of desolation."

Virtually no other book of prophecy has aroused so much opposition, from earliest to most recent times. Voltaire derided Newton for declaring that, because of Daniel's prediction that "many shall run to and fro," man would someday travel at speeds up to 30 miles an hour. The satirist's ridicule was turned back upon himself when the automobile and other transportation easily exceeded Newton's expectation without, as the French cynic wrote, having, at such speeds, his breath caught away, inducing death by asphyxiation! Prophecy, in the Third Century, A. D., would have attacked the book as fallible; but, having proved itself irrefutably accurate, he and his school claimed it could not have been what it purported to be — divine revelation of the future!

Such reasoning reminds one of the Lord's likening of his detractors and gainsayers to children playing in the market place, calling that they had mourned to their playmates and they had not wept, and had piped to them, and they had not danced; either way, nothing would please. Had Daniel been inaccurate, Prophecy and his disciples undoubtedly would have attacked the

book for its fallibility; but having proved itself to be irrefutably accurate, they carped that it could not have been what it purported to be — divine revelation!

An exceptional peculiarity of Daniel is the book's presentation of its messages in two languages — Hebrew and Aramaic. According to C. I. Scofield, the section from Chapter 2, verse 4, through Chapter 7, verse 28, is in Aramaic. Thus, Daniel has recorded in an official Gentile tongue, an outline of world history in advance. "The times of the Gentiles," from the Babylonian Empire, the Medo-Persian, the Grecian, and lastly, the Roman — through the "two-legged" Eastern and Western Empire period, and the coming "ten toed" confederation of nations arising from the Roman Empire's fragmentation, to the "time of the end," when Christ, as the Smiting Stone, shall put down all kingdoms and establish His millennial kingdom.

Another remarkable thing about the Book of Daniel is that it was designated as a prophecy to be fully comprehended only when the "time of the end" should arrive: Ch. 12:9 . . . "Go thy way, Daniel for the words are

closed up and sealed until the time of the end."

Are we at "the time of the end"? The late great expositor, H. A. Ironside, ties the Roman 10-horned "beast" of Rev. 13 to the "fourth beast" described in Daniel 7:7 and interpreted in 7:23, 24, 25:

"The fourth beast shall be the fourth kingdom upon earth, which shall devour the whole earth, and shall tread it down, and break it in pieces. . . ."

"And the 10 horns of this kingdom are 10 kings that shall arise; and another shall rise after them, and he shall be diverse from the first, and he shall subdue three kings."

"And he shall speak great words against the Most High . . . wear out the saints . . . they shall be given into his hand until a time and times and the dividing of time. . . ."

Some Bible scholars are watching the European Economic Community (Common Market), already organized with a supranational parliament, with great interest. They think it is close to becoming the 10-nation confederacy

predicted in Daniel and Revelation. Already Greece has become the 10th member, to assume active status Jan. 1, 1981.

"And in the days of these kings," (Dan. 2:44) "shall the God of Heaven set up a kingdom, which shall never be destroyed, and the kingdom shall not be left to other people, but it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and it shall stand forever."

Some have called Daniel "the A. B. C. of prophecy," and "the backbone of prophecy." How remarkable it is when properly understood, can be judged by this incident. Dr. Ironside, commenting on a passage when writing on Daniel, circa 1910-20, said that Egypt, then under British rule, apparently would be "independent" when it should be fulfilled!

Anyone who thinks that Daniel does not speak to current events, but dismisses it as a compilation of happenings long dead, is a spiritual myopic, in danger of short-changing himself when handling scriptural coin. It was not aimlessly that the Lord, speaking of end — time events, referred especially and specifically to Daniel as "the prophet."

Book Reviews

MEMOIRS OF J. P. BOYCE by John A. Broadus (Mounts Publishing Ltd., 282 West Academy, Louisville, MS 38339, \$19.95, 378 pp., black hardback with gold imprint, a reprint). This volume would be extremely valuable to anyone who wishes to study 19th century Baptists in the South. Broadus supplies a running history involving names and activities of Baptists during the 1800's. J. P. Boyce (1827-1888) was founder of what is now Southern Baptist Seminary in Louisville, Ky. He is perhaps best known now for his Abstract of Systematic Theology.

Southern Baptists can find out a lot about their theological roots by reading this story of Boyce's life. The book can be obtained by writing the publisher, at the address given above.

THE COMPLETE WORKS OF THOMAS GOODWIN (Mounts Publishing, Ltd., 282 West Academy, Louisville, MS 38339, 12 volumes, \$15.95 per volume, black hardback with gold imprint). Last year, three hundred years after the death of Thomas Goodwin, the Mounts Publishing Company reproduced this set of books so that 20th century readers could have access to what they term as "some of the greatest theological writing ever produced." These were a portion of Nichol's series of Puritan Divines published 1961-1968.

Goodwin was a pastor in London and preached before Parliament. Also he was president of Magdalen College in Oxford. He was contemporary with great names in Puritan theology, such as Owen, Caryl, Reynolds, Charnock, and others. For a time he was spiritual advisor to Cromwell.

The 12 volumes include two on Epistles, one on Revelation, plus the subjects, "Christ Set Forth;" "The One

Sacrifice;" "The Work of the Holy Ghost in Our Salvation;" "Of the Creatures and Gospel Holiness;" "The Subject and Acts of Sanctifying Faith;" "A Discourse On Election;" "An Unregenerate Man's Guiltiness Before God;" "The Constitution, Right Order, and Government of the Churches of Christ;" and "Assorted Sermons."

They may be ordered from the publisher at the above address.

LOVE LETTERS by Ann Warren (Word Books, \$5.95) This book by a British journalist is in the form of a series of love letters between a young woman in London and a young man in Scotland. The two had been living together while in college, but he flunked his final exams and lost his scholarship and had to return to his parents' home. The letters subtly show the pitfalls of a "living together" relationship. The writing powerfully reveals the two characters involved. Without one word of preaching, it shows how Christ can bring greenness into a life that is like a desert.

GOD'S AWESOME CHALLENGE, by Harold C. Bennett; Broadman Press, Nashville, Tenn., 150 pages.

This is a book relating to Southern Baptists' Bold Mission Thrust. The compiler/contributor, Harold C. Bennett, is executive secretary-treasurer of the Southern Baptist Convention Executive Committee. He has gathered messages from 15 preachers that would seek to inspire efforts to win the world in this century. Among those 15 is a Mississippian, Brooks Wester, pastor of First Baptist Church, Hattiesburg, the immediate past chairman of the SBC Executive Committee. Wester is at this time president of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board.

Wester's message is on Bold Praying.

The other writers are Landrum P. Leavell II, Herschel H. Hobbs, William M. Hinson, Duke K. McCall, James H. Smith, James L. Pleitz, Jim Henry, H. Franklin Paschall, William Henry Crouch, William J. Cumble, Keener Pharr, Daniel G. Vestal, Albert McClellan, and R. Keith Parks. In addition Bennett contributes the beginning and ending chapters. The books seeks to influence readers to follow the leadership of the Holy Spirit and become equipped for mission through prayer and witnessing. Some of the writers deal with planning, cooperating, financing, and seeking a vision of God's help.

TRIUMPHS OF THE IMAGINATION, LITERATURE IN PERSPECTIVE by Leland Ryken (InterVarsity, paper, 262 pp., \$5.95) THE BROTHERS KARAMAZOV, MACBETH, MOBY DICK, THE SCARLET LETTER. These triumphs of the literary imagination are filled with riches for Christian readers. Yet some people have considered the study of literature either frivolous or sinful. Should a Christian read for sheer enjoyment? Does a religious approach leave room for analyzing the form of a sonnet or an epic? Must Christian critics keep their noses to the theological grindstone? Ryken, professor of English at Wheaton College, deals with these questions in a clear and lively manner. He uses the Bible as a model for understanding literary forms and as a source for literary theory. He quotes Northrop Frye: "Without some knowledge of the Bible one simply does not know what is going on in English literature."

Misery acquaints a man with strange bedfellows. — Shakespeare

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"Bangladesh Needs Its Womanpower," Says Baptist Women's Union Leader

By Anne McWilliams
Saroj S. Debnath visited Mississippi, enroute to her home in Dacca, Bangladesh, after attending the Baptist World Congress in Toronto. While in Jackson she spoke during a meeting of state WMU Board members and to GAs at Morrison Heights Church, Clinton; she was a guest at the home of Marjean Patterson, executive director, Mississippi WMU.

She said that four countries have Baptist mission work in her country — Australia, New Zealand, England, and the United States. As a teacher in elementary grades for 33 years, she worked in several mission schools. Sometimes she was headmistress of the school.

Of the 17 Southern Baptist missionaries in Bangladesh, six are from Mississippi. Mrs. Debnath said she knows the Mississippians and has worked with them. They include Tom Thurman, James and Guinevere Young, R. T. and Frank Buckley, and Journeyman Daniel Johnson.

As a Christian since the age of 15, she has been always interested in the uplift of the women in her country. For six years she has been president of the Bangladesh Baptist Women's Union, and was its secretary for 12 years. She represented that group in Toronto.

As administrator of the economic assistance program of the Christian Health Care Project sponsored by the



National Council of Churches, she helps Bangladesh women find employment, so that they may buy food for their families. Through this project she coordinates the activities of 22 handicraft centers. For example, there are centers for spinning, weaving, spice grinding, sewing, doing jute work (jute is a major export of Bangladesh), and fish ponds and fish culture. The 22 centers, she said, give a means of livelihood to 500 families.

"Women make up 50 per cent of our population," she pointed out. "The nation needs and wants to use this womanpower." She added, "Women

are encouraged to work, and to study so they can more easily find jobs." Though activities and privileges of the Muslim and Hindu women have often been restricted in the past, now this is not as true, she said, because the income from women's work is so badly needed.

Millions live in Bangladesh, in an area no larger than Arkansas. Their main foods are fish and rice, but hundreds don't have enough even of these, and they die of starvation. The land has suffered from a lot of calamities, such as floods and tidal waves. Also a basic cause of hunger is lack of money. As more and more babies are born, more food and more jobs are needed.

Mrs. Debnath is a member of the Immanuel Baptist Church in Dacca, the largest church affiliated with the Southern Baptist Convention in Bangladesh. She said that women and girls teach in the Sunday School there, and in the youth and adults camps that the church sponsors.

In a land where only two percent are "Protestant Christians," her parents are Christians. Her grandparents were won to Christ by Australian Baptist missionaries. Her husband, Arun Kumar Debnath, a pastor, travels from village to village in his ministry (94% of the people live in villages.)

Into villages where the culture is both Muslim and Hindu, he and other Baptist Bengalis, along with the missionaries, seek to distribute Bibles, which the people may study for themselves. "The villagers are anxious to

read, to learn more, to become better educated, so they may find better jobs," Mrs. Debnath said. Those who leave Bibles promise to return to answer questions. However, they don't talk to the people about their becoming Christians unless they are asked. "It is hard for them to change their beliefs," she explained. "They appreciate the social services the Christians provide, but most do not accept our religion."

Mrs. Debnath speaks four languages — English, Bengali, and two tribal languages. She has taught Bengali to 20 missionaries, including Troy Bennett, the first Southern Baptist missionary to go to Bangladesh (in 1957).

Young people don't date in Bangladesh, as in the United States, she said. Instead, parents arrange marriages. In her own case, she and her husband-to-be met and fell in love while he was in school in her village. His parents asked her parents' permission for the wedding to take place. Ordinarily, such an inter-racial marriage would not have been approved (she was member of a hill tribe and he is Bengali). However, because his parents and hers were Christians, they did support the match. Now she has two sons, two daughters, and an eight-month-old grandchild.

An important part of her church life, she said, is the weekly prayer group. She asked that Mississippi Baptists join her in prayer "that through the social work we are doing we may show God's love."

Will Lead Stewardship Conferences

John Alexander Will Go To Europe For Sabbatical

John Alexander has elected to spend his sabbatical leave in Europe. He has been an employee of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board for 21 years, having worked with the Sunday School department before becoming director of the department of Stewardship and Cooperative Program Promotion.

During four and one-half months away from his Baptist Building office, he will lead stewardship conferences in most of the 42 churches in the European Baptist Convention (English language), beginning with the four that are in England.

He and his wife will leave Jackson Aug. 11, spend four weeks in England, and then move into an apartment in Wiesbaden, West Germany.

John W. Merritt, Southern Baptist missionary from Hattiesburg, who is executive secretary of the European Baptist Convention, assisted in arranging the schedule of conferences. His office at the convention headquarters is in Wiesbaden.

Other European countries where English-language churches are located and where Alexander will be working, are in Austria, Belgium, France, West Germany, Greece, Italy, Netherlands, Norway, Scotland, and Spain. The largest number are in West Germany.

For the most part, the churches of the convention were begun by people who were living in Europe and who were of Southern Baptist background. Most of the pastors of the churches are from Southern Baptist churches and have been educated in Southern Baptist colleges, universities, and seminaries. Several of the pastors are missionaries, as is Merritt.

The convention contributes percentages of all undesignated receipts to the Baptist World Alliance, the European Baptist Federation, and the Cooperative Program of the Southern Baptist Convention. Also the convention budgets money to be used for various mission causes in Europe.

Washington Readmits Northside

Northside Baptist Church, Greenville, an unaffiliated church, on June 28 in a called business session voted by a large majority to petition the Executive Committee of the Washington County Baptist Association for readmission into the fellowship and full participation in the program of Southern Baptists. The petition was granted.

M. E. Perry was called on to guide the Northside Baptist Church as a new Southern Baptist congregation through the transition period. All paper work will be completed and all guidelines met for the annual fall meeting of the Washington County Baptist Association. Perry has been called to be the pastor.

Dena Davis Will Spend Vacation In Missions

Dena Davis, secretary in the Church Music department of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, and a member of First Church, Jackson, is spending her vacation in missions.

Miss Davis will work in Gold Beach, Ore., as a Christian Service Corps worker assigned through the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board. She will work Aug. 9-23, doing survey, Bible Schools, church music, and youth and children's work in 6th Street Baptist Church which has 40 in Sunday School.

The tiny church in a tourist town of 4,000 population, is 80 miles from its nearest sister Southern Baptist church. Pastor of 6th Street is U. H. Hunter.

Miss Davis' expenses are being paid by gifts from First Church Jackson; her home church, Highland in Laurel; and the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board.

Missionary Taxes May...

(Continued from page 1)

A legislative assistant to Sen. Herman E. Talmadge, D-Ga., the second-ranking Democrat on the Finance Committee, also labeled as "very good" chances for passage in one form or the other.

Talmadge, like Long a Southern Baptist, continues to give the bill "high priority," according to the aide. The veteran Georgia Senator, who faces reelection this year, was chief sponsor of "church plan" amendments to a recently-passed Senate bill which, among other provisions, restores eligibility for participation in denominational annuity plans to employees of church agencies and institutions.

The Finance Committee, which completed hearings on the tax cut bill July 31, is expected to "mark up" the measure when Congress reconvenes August 18 following the recess for the Democratic National Convention. Long's assistant believes the measure should be ready for full Senate action by Labor Day.

If the Senate rejects the tax cut, there would be less than a month for H.R. 1319 to pass on its own.

Because of the short timetable, Foreign Mission Board President R. Keith Parks again has urged concerned Baptists to contact Senator Long to indicate support for H.R. 1319.

Parks also suggested that individual Baptists contact Rep. Al Ullman, D-Ore., chairman of the House Ways and Means Committee, asking him to expedite movement of the measure in the House once it passes the Senate. The House version of the bill, passed earlier, does not contain the restoration of the \$20,000 earned income exclusion for missionaries.

Hastley writes for the Baptist Joint Committee.

"Always wishing for something you don't have," growled the father to his teenage daughter.

"That's right daddy," agreed the bright young thing, "but what else is there to wish for?"



Betty Barber
Mission Friends



Diane Smith
Acteens



Waudine Storey
GA



Marjean
Patterson
WMU

WMU Staff Will Teach Manuals At Gulfshore



Ethel McKeithen
Baptist Women



Marilyn Hopkins
BYW

The manuals of WMU work will be taught at Gulfshore Baptist Assembly on Friday night and Saturday, Oct. 3-4, by the state WMU staff. These manuals are WMU Work In The Church, Baptist Women Manual, Baptist Young Women Manual, Acteens Leader Manual, GA Leader Manual, and Mission Friends Leader Manual. Church Study Course credit will be earned by those who complete the five-hour class study of one of the manuals.

Each state staff consultant will lead her age-level manual study. Marjean Patterson is executive director of Mississippi WMU. Consultant for Baptist Women is Ethel McKeithen, for Baptist Young Women is Marilyn Hopkins, for Acteens is Diane Smith, for GA and Mission Friends is Waudine Storey. Miss Storey will teach the GA manual, and Mrs. Joe Barber, of Clinton, will teach the Mission Friends manual.

The activity begins with supper on Friday night and concludes with lunch on Saturday. All general WMU officers,

officers and members of Baptist Women and Baptist Young Women, directors and leaders of Acteens, GA and Mission Friends will find these manual studies helpful in carrying out their duties and responsibilities.

Two rates for this overnight activity are available. The \$15.75 rate includes supper, breakfast and lunch, with 5-8 persons per room. The \$17.75 rate includes supper, breakfast and lunch, with 2-4 persons per room.

Reservations may be made by sending a registration fee of \$2.75 per person, along with name, address and telephone number, to Manual Study, WMU, Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205. This registration fee is applied to the total payment, leaving a balance to be paid at Gulfshore of \$13 or \$15, depending on the type of accommodations desired. Do not send reservations to Gulfshore.

Deadline for reservations is September 1. Cancellations may be refunded to September 1. After that date, the deposit of \$2.75 will be forfeited.

Christians Take It On The Chin

(Continued from page 1)

picted at the rate of 4.88. Projected over a period of one year that would mean that 41,870 non-Christian values would be presented in a favorable light while only 16,748 Christian values would be presented.



Cranfield Will Dedicate Sign

Cranfield Church, Adams County, will dedicate its new sign Sunday, Aug. 17, at the close of revival services. After the morning worship service and then the dedication service on the church lawn, dinner will be served on the grounds.

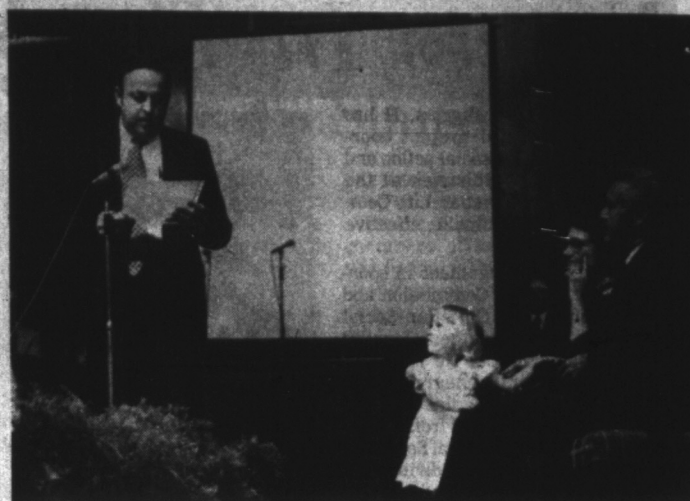
Mrs. Mary Ferrell gave the \$1,000 to buy the sign, in memory of her late husband R. E. (Ed) Ferrell. The Ferrells were former and faithful members of Cranfield Church. Revival services will begin Monday evening, Aug. 11, at 7:30 p.m. and continue through the week. James Goodman of Crescent City, Calif. will preach. "Butch" Hoses, minister of music at First, Vidalia, La., will lead the music. Victor Johnson is pastor.

Pray For Margaret Fund MKs

Aug. 8 — Peter Lee (France), Mississippi College
August 25 — Elizabeth Applewhite (Indonesia), Mississippi College

Thursday, August 7, 1968

BAPTIST RECORD PAGE 5



Harrisburg Bids Farewell

The Hamblins' only grandchild upstaged the mayor of Tupelo, Clyde Whitaker, as he read a proclamation declaring July 27 as Robert L. Hamblin Day in Tupelo as well as at the church. Mrs. Hamblin sits by her husband. The keys to a new Buick diesel automobile were presented by Doyce Deas, who was chairperson of the gift committee. Fellow pastor Bob Shirley, of Parkway Church, Tupelo, was among the 25 guests in attendance paying their respects in a feature directed by Brooks Marr, who was co-chairman of the program of tributes to Hamblin on his last day.

Hawaii Editor Suffers Stroke

HONOLULU (BP) — Sue Nishikawa, editor of the Hawaii Baptist newspaper, suffered a stroke while returning home from the Baptist World Congress in Toronto and is recuperating from paralysis on her left side.

According to reports from her niece, Faith McFatrige at the Baptist state convention office, Mrs. Nishikawa is at the Rehabilitation Center of the Pacific for an indefinite period. She has regained some use of her left arm and has limited mobility in a wheelchair.

Mrs. Nishikawa, who suffered the stroke enroute to Vancouver, never lost her ability to speak, though her speech is slow. Doctors at Vancouver determined it would not be harmful for her to continue to Hawaii. Upon her arrival in Honolulu, she checked in immediately at Straub Hospital where she stayed one week.

Mrs. McFatrige said Mrs. Nishikawa is rapidly regaining normal speech and has asked for her papers with plans to produce a September issue of the Hawaii Baptist. There will be no August issue.

A second Hawaii Baptist executive, Edmond Walker, executive director of the convention, had suffered a mild heart attack while in Nashville, Tenn., for the Southern Baptist Executive Committee meeting in February. He underwent subsequent heart bypass surgery in Honolulu and has returned to work full-time.



Earl Kelly, left, executive secretary-treasurer of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, was a surprise guest July 27 for Dr. Robert L. Hamblin Day at Harrisburg Baptist Church, Tupelo, as the pastor spent his last day there before assuming his duties as professor at New Orleans Seminary.

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News In The News

Raymond Edward Higgins, II has been named special project coordinator for Christian social action and Christian social ministries at the Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission offices in Nashville, effective August 1.

The two-year assignment is sponsored jointly by the Commission and the Department of Christian Social Ministries of the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board. He earned a master of divinity degree from Southwestern Seminary this July.

Higgins was graduated from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary this July with a master of divinity degree with an emphasis on ethics.

Christy New, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Robert New of New Albany, recently received the Superior Award in Children's Bible Drill. She made no errors in the state competition. This was the first year of participation by her church — Fredonia in Union County.



JANET DICKERSON, member of First Church, Booneville, who will go as a journeyman missionary to Yemen, was given a reception by her church on Sunday night, July 27, and presented gifts from the WMU and individuals. A registered nurse, she will be serving in the Southern Baptist Hospital in Yemen. Her pastor is Tom F. Rayburn.

Steve Morse was ordained to the gospel ministry during the Sunday morning service, July 27, at Ridgecrest Church, Jackson. He is graduating from New Orleans Seminary this summer, and he and his wife Deidre will be moving soon to California, where they will serve under appointment of the Home Mission Board.

His parents, Jerry and Pauline Morse, are members of Ridgecrest Church. His father presented the ordination certificate. Julius Thompson, pastor, preached the sermon on "Biblical Perspective of Ordination." David Worthington presented the Bible; J. B. Welborn led the ordination prayer; Mike Weeks read Scripture.

Staff Changes

David W. Spencer is new pastor at First Church, Long Beach. He comes from First Church, Sulligent, Ala.

Spencer is a native of Senatobia. He received his college education from William Carey and did his seminary work at Southeastern Seminary and New Orleans Seminary, receiving his Doctor of Ministry degree in 1979.

He is married to the former Connie Russell. They have two sons, Brett and Jonathan.

Mark Boyd has resigned as pastor of Fredonia Church, New Albany, and is moving to Fort Worth, Tex. to enroll at Southwestern Seminary. He is a graduate of Brewton Parker College, Mount Vernon, Ga. and of Blue Mountain College in Mississippi. He is married to the former Ellen Tanner, daughter of Pastor and Mrs. Buford Tanner of Centerville, Mo.

Cecil Jones has resigned as pastor of Bethesda Church, Oktibbeha Association.

Artesia Church, Lowndes County, has called Ben Yarber as pastor.

Liz Young, minister of youth education/activities at First Church, Hattiesburg, has resigned.

Ben Mitchell has resigned as pastor of Poplar Flat Church, Winston County Association, to attend Southwestern Seminary. He and his wife Nancy will move to Fort Worth.

Tears are the silent language of grief. — Voltaire



Left to right: Mrs. Marie McQueen, Jimmy Martin, pastor, and J. W. Grantham. On June 15, this plaque was given to Greens Creek Church by the Albert Grantham Family in memory of Daniel and Charity Chappell Grantham, founders of the church. Mrs. McQueen, of Greenville, made the presentation. Mr. Grantham of Jackson, led in the dedication prayer. They are brother and sister, and grandchildren of Daniel and Charity Chappell.

This occasion marked the 130th anniversary of Greens Creek Baptist Church.

Granthams Give Plaque To Greens Creek

Mrs. Marie G. McQueen and J. Webster Grantham, grandchildren of charter members of Greens Creek Church, Lebanon Association, representing the Grantham family, presented a plaque to the church during homecoming services on June 15. The pastor, Jimmy Martin, accepted the plaque for the 130-year-old church at Petal.

Greens Creek Church was organized June, 1850 in the home of Daniel and Charity Chappell Grantham. Services were conducted in their home for two years before members could build.

The plaque was given by the Albert Grantham family, son of Daniel and Charity. The presentation was made by two of the grandchildren of Daniel Grantham: J. Webster Grantham is a member of Broadmoor Church, Jackson, and Marie Grantham McQueen is a member of First Church, Greenville. Thirty members of the Albert Grantham family attended the dedication service for the plaque.

The Moseleys

Ray Moseley has accepted the pastorate of the Eden Church, Yazoo County, and has moved there from the pastorate of the Palestine Church, Simpson County, where he was pastor for two years. He and his wife, the former Mick Craft, are natives of Simpson County. They have a daughter, Penny, 16.

Sincerity is the very foundation stone of true friendship. It is also a human trait that is hard to counterfeit, as the sincere friendly impulse comes from the soul of a man and not from the calculating mind. Think kindly and friendly thoughts. If you have a heart and soul, why be ashamed of them? Bring them in to the shop, office and your daily life. The hand may be cunning, and the head may contain the brain that can conceive the most brilliant thoughts, but every good and worthy impulse comes from the heart. Strengthen your faith in men; think kindly of them; believe that they are your friends, and in the long run they will be.

When I asked a friend the secret of his popularity, he attributed it to one particular word. "Years ago," he said, "upon hearing a statement with which I disagreed, I used to say, 'baloney', and people began to avoid me like a plague. Now I substitute 'amazing' for 'baloney', and my phone keeps ringing and my list of friends continues to grow." — Letter in Capper's Weekly.

Missionary News

Two Southern Baptist missionaries have been named to fill new positions at the Foreign Mission Board's office of human resources.

The appointments, announced during the board's July meeting, are Ronald N. Boswell, missionary to Brazil, as director of the new volunteer department, and Everett B. Burnette, missionary to Senegal, as manager of auxiliary personnel in the personnel selection department.

Boswell, a Texan, has been the board's liaison helping to coordinate cooperation of Texas Baptists with the Brazilian Baptist Convention in the nationwide Brazil evangelistic crusade from 1980-82.

Another Brazil missionary, William J. Daman, will assume this liaison responsibility.

Burnette, a native of South Carolina, has been missionary-in-residence and associate director of the board's missionary orientation program.

Randall Lewis Von Kanel, missionary journeyman to the Cayman Islands, has completed his term of service and returned to the States (address: 3211 Whitmore St., Pascagoula, Miss. 39367).

Helen McCullough, emerita Southern Baptist missionary to China and Hawaii, died July 22 in Houston, Texas. She was 79. Funeral services were held July 25 at First Baptist Church, Houston.

Miss McCullough went to China in 1928 under contract with the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board to teach missionary children and in the mission schools in Wuchow, Canton and Shanghai. Appointed in 1935, she returned to Shanghai to teach in a Baptist boys' school until 1940.

During World War II she did evangelistic work at a center for servicemen in Honolulu, Hawaii. After the war she did educational and evangelistic work in Shanghai from 1947 to 1948. She took medical retirement in 1957.

Patricia Anne Wilson, missionary journeyman to Korea, has completed her term of service and returned to the States (address: Box 3, Osyka, Miss. 39657).

Claudia Rae Tenney, missionary journeyman to Brazil, has completed her term of service and returned to the States (address: 211 Ave. B, Brookhaven, Miss. 39601).

Revival Dates

Morgan Chapel (Sturgis): Aug. 10-17; services at 10:30 a.m. and 7:30 p.m.; Q. T. Curtis, of Sage Avenue Church, Mobile, Ala., evangelist; Olyn F. Roberts, pastor.

Kirkville Church (Itawamba): August 10-15; services 7:30 p.m.; evangelist, Tom F. Rayburn, First, Booneville; pastor, Hulon Chaney.

Jayess Church: Aug. 3-8; Hubert "Bud" Swindall, pastor of Heucks Retreat Church, evangelist; Mickey Sandifer, music director of Topeka Church, music leader; Sunday services at 11 a.m. and 7 p.m.; services during the week at 7:30 p.m.; Mike Mitchell, pastor.

County Line (Copiah): Aug. 10-15; Roger Stacey, pastor; evangelist, M. Wayne Griffith of Lyon Church; music director, Joan Hammack; services at 7:30 p.m.

Liberty Church (Pontotoc): Aug. 10-15; Danny Wilemon of Tupelo, guest evangelist; Mrs. Marilyn Gillespie, leading the music; services at 7:30 p.m.; Bobby Caples, interim pastor.

Northside Church, Greenville: Aug. 6-10; Gregg Bennett of Parkview, Greenville, music leader; M. E. Perry, pastor, evangelist.

Silver Springs, Osyka: Aug. 10-15; Jewell Wood, pastor of Briarwood, Meridian, evangelist; James M. Thornhill, pastor.

Society Hill, Oak Vale, Aug. 3-8; at 7:30 p.m.; Sonny Adkins of New Hebron, evangelist; George Puckett, music director at First, Mendenhall, leading music; Ray Henry, pastor.

Mount Comfort (Calhoun): Aug. 3-8; at 7:30 p.m.; Nelson Crozier, pastor of Fellowship Church, Taylorsville, evangelist; Hubert Massey of Bruce, music director; Barry C. Ward, pastor.

Center Ridge (Yazoo): Aug. 10-15; James Fancher, Jackson, evangelist; David Grimsley, minister of music, Highland Church, Vicksburg, directing the music; A. Homer, Jr., pastor; services Sunday at 11 a.m. and 7 p.m. (broadcast over WJNS-FM 92.1); during week at 7 p.m.

Ridgecrest, Hattiesburg: Aug. 10-15; Bobby Cossey, evangelist; Ford Broome, music director; Maye Laquet, pianist; Odell Tebo, pastor; Sunday at 11 a.m. and 4 p.m., with lunch at the church and gospel singing from 2 to 4; Mon.-Fri. at 10:30 a.m. and 7:30 p.m.

Liberty Hill (Panola): Aug. 10-15; services at 10:30 a.m. and 7:30 p.m.; Mike Street, pastor of Dry Creek, Mendenhall, evangelist; music under direction of Tim Horton, associate pastor at Peach Creek, Como; James L. Bailey, pastor.

Concord (Franklin): Aug. 10-15; Sunday "dinner on the ground" following the morning service, and then a second preaching service in the afternoon; evangelist, John Connell from Atlanta, Ga.; music evangelist, Gary Kimbrough, minister of music, Central Church, New Orleans, La.; services at 7:30 each night; Mike Howell, pastor.

Bellevue (Lamar): Aug. 10-15; Cliff Estes, pastor of Glendale, Hattiesburg, evangelist; Mrs. Lynn Holderfield, music director; James L. Yates, pastor; Sunday at 11 a.m. and 8:30 p.m. (lunch will be served in fellowship hall); Mon.-Fri. at 7:30 p.m.

Bethel, Liberty: Aug. 10-15; Mon.-Fri. at 7:30 p.m.; Sunday at 11 a.m. followed by dinner on the grounds and an afternoon service; Tim Crosby, pastor of Mountain Church, Gatesville, TN, evangelist; Tom Crosby, music minister of East Mountain Church, Longview, Texas, leading music; David Crosby, pastor.

Harmony (Union County): Aug. 10-15; Sunday night—7 p.m.; Mon.-Fri. 10:30 a.m. and 7:30 p.m.; Bob Watkins, pastor, Temple, Union County, evangelist; Bobby Whittington, Pleasant Ridge, Union County, leading the music; Mike Smith, pastor.

Arlington Church, Bogue Chitto: Aug. 8-10; Charles Didato, pastor, Mess Church, Tylertown, evangelist; music directed by Bob Akins of New Orleans Seminary; services Fri. and Sat. at 7:30 p.m.; Sunday at 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. (no Sunday night service); lunch at the church on Sunday; Johnny Place, pastor.

Mantee Church (Webster): Aug. 10-15; Sunday morning (11) and evening (6:30); weekday morning (10) and evening (7:30); J. W. Baker, pastor, North Oxford Church, evangelist; Tim Blann, choral director at Hot Springs High School and Park Place Church, Hot Springs, Ark., music evangelist; Paul Thibodeaux, pastor.

Antioch Church (Simpson): Aug. 4-8; Don Savell, evangelist; at 7:30 p.m.; Kenny Goff, pastor.

Jayess Church: Aug. 3-8; Hubert "Bud" Swindall, pastor of Heucks Retreat Church; evangelist, Mickey Sandifer, music director of Topeka Church, music leader; Sunday services at 11 a.m. and 7 p.m.; services during the week at 7:30 p.m.; Mike Mitchell, pastor.

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Goodwater Church (Smith): Aug. 3-8; Billy Ballard, pastor Union Church, Smith County, evangelist; Wayne Thornton, music minister; Mrs. Myrna Robinson, pianist; services 7:30 p.m.; Hurshell Thornton, pastor.

First Church, Beaumont: Aug. 13-17; Jack O'Neal Giles, pastor of Macedonia Church, Suqualena, preaching; Joe Strahan, pastor.

Bunker Hill Church (Marion): Aug. 3-8; 10:30 a.m.; 7:30 p.m.; Jerry Henderson, pastor, Petal-Harvey Church, Petal, evangelist; J. R. Blakney, Monroeville, Ala., music director; Wanda Robbins, organist; Mrs. David Perry, pianist; David Perry, pastor.

Hopewell (Choctaw): Aug. 4-8; at 11 a.m. and 7:30 p.m.; Steve Knight, pastor of Midway, Pascagoula, evangelist; Roger Griffith, pastor.

Union, Seminary (at Ole Fox): Aug. 3-8; Doug Benedict, evangelist; Dallas Rayborn, music evangelist (he is completing 40 years of service in revivals); at 7:30 p.m.

Bolton Church (Hinds Madison): Aug. 10-15; Sunday services 11 a.m., Woodrow Clark, preaching, 7 p.m., Charles Pigott, preaching; Mon.-Fri. 7:30 p.m. with different speakers each night, Mon. Larry Rohman; Tues. Bill Causey; Wed. Robert Wall; Thurs. Kermit McGregor; Fri. Phillips McCarty; Myrna Loy Hedgepeth, music; Wayne Burkes, pastor.

Shady Grove, First Church, Heidelberg, (Jasper): Aug. 3-8; services at 7 p.m.; evangelist Francis LaRocque, of Lake Charles, La.; Arlis Nichols of Enterprise, music evangelist; Harold G. Wilson, pastor.

New Hope (Jones): Aug. 10-15; Houston Atkins, evangelist; Hubert Greer, music evangelist; Sunday services at 10:45 a.m. and 2 p.m.; Sunday covered dish lunch at the church; services during week at 7 p.m.

Union, Clarke: Aug. 10-15; Sunday services 11 a.m. and 7:30 p.m.; weekday services, 10 a.m. and 7:30 p.m.; Danny Lafferty, full-time evangelist, Ocean Springs, preaching; Ray Whitaker, music minister at Union, leading the singing; James E. Pugh, Jr., pastor.

Gunnison Church: Aug. 31-Sept. 3; Reginald Barnard of Mid-America Seminary, Memphis, evangelist; Billy Hale, song director at Gunnison, leading singing; John Conn, pastor; services Sunday at 11 a.m. and 7 p.m.; during week at 7 p.m.

Michael Memorial Church, Gulfport: Aug. 19-24; Eugene Gullett, Sorrento, La., evangelist; Donny Magers of Long Beach, music evangelist; Bob Mack, pastor; services at 7:30 p.m.

West Side (Neshoba): Aug. 10-15; Jerry Zgarba, evangelist; Mark Gibson, music director; Mike Duff, pastor; services Sunday evening at 7 p.m. and Mon.-Fri. at 7:30 p.m.

Lake Harbor (Rankin): Aug. 10-14; regular services on Sunday; evening services at 7:30; Don E. Wainwright, First Church, Eldon, Mo., evangelist; E. C. Harpe, music evangelist; Bill St-out, pastor.



Nobel Peace Prize winner Mother Teresa recently toured the Bangalore Baptist Hospital in India and then addressed patients, friends and hospital staff in the new chapel there. "We can touch Christ in the sick, the lonely, and the destitute," she told the overflow crowd. Stressing the importance of love, she said it is not "how much we give but how much love we put in it." (FMB) photo by Joan Fox.

Russell Reid, pastor of Liberty Church, Winston County, and his wife have a new baby girl, Lee Ann.

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Revival Results

River Hill (Itawamba): Howard Aultman, guest evangelist; S. E. O'Brien, pastor; 21 for baptism; two by letter.

Utica Church: July 20-25; Rick Ingle, Denton, Tex., evangelist; John Ed Snell, pastor; 27 professions of faith; three additions by letter.

The History Of Mississippi College

by Richard Aubrey McLemore & Nannie Pitts McLemore

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MC Awarded \$100,000 By Kresge

Mississippi College recently received a check from the Kresge Foundation of Troy, Michigan, for \$100,000 to be used for upgrading computer capabilities and renovating and improving several academic buildings.

In addition to the contribution, college officials were pleased to note a personal inscription on the reverse side of the check from Stanley S. Kresge, a descendant of the Foundation's creator.

Lewis Nobles, President of Mississippi College, in responding to Kresge's note said, "I was particularly gratified to see your own personal message, 'In the name and for the sake of Jesus Christ,' endorsed by you on the back of the check; it is extremely helpful to know of the commitment of individuals like you who are of such great assistance in helping carry forth God's message in the significant way you do."

The grant to Mississippi College was approved by the Kresge Foundation's trustees upon condition that the college also employ denominational funds and both restricted and designated gifts pledged through the "Breakthrough" campaign to complete total costs of the projects.

Combined with monies already raised by the college, the grant from the Kresge Foundation will be used to expand a Hewlett-Packard computer system and to improve, renovate, and/or replace existing facilities in Alumni Hall, Self Hall, Lowrey Hall, Mary Nelson Hall, and Nelson Hall.

Portions of the computer system have already been installed, and most of the other work is expected to be complete by mid to late 1981.



Upon This Rock

Meadowood Church, Amory, under the leadership of pastor Earl Ezell, completed a church building fund campaign and the congregation pledged \$180,000.

"This campaign has been a real blessing to our church," said Ezell. "We will now be able to provide the space we need to minister effectively in a growing community without sacrificing our church program. We appreciate the assistance given to us through the Stewardship Department of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board." John Alexander directed the campaign.



Chinese Study English

Shown above with their instructors are First Church, Greenville's Chinese Mission members who are learning the English language. They are in various stages of process. Robert Chu, under the direction of Keith Allen has advanced to a fourth grade reading level in a year's time. Anna Chow, instructed by Ted Shepherd, is working on her requirement for Citizenship. Wanda Blackman teaches two pupils and Myrtle Adams teaches three. George Elder teaches one. Ed Pang, superintendent of the Chinese Mission, interprets from time to time. The children are taking lessons also. Shown are: (L to R) Children: Henry Quon, Kenny Young. Adults: Ed Pang, Anna Chow, Diane Quon, Ted Shepherd, Myrtle Adams, Anita Leong, Wanda Blackman, Lilly Jiu, Keith Allen, Robert Chu, George Elder, and Fu Tun Mak.

Seminary Refugee Ministry Supports Laotian Family

LOUISVILLE, Ky. — After months of fund-raising, clothes and furniture collecting and apartment hunting followed by scrubbing and painting, a group of students at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Ky., saw their goal achieved: an eight-member Laotian refugee family moved into an apartment which the "Seminary Refugee Resettlement

Ministry" had prepared.

At times it seemed as if this would not occur. Russ Deal, a theology student from Huntington, W. Va., said this is the third family the group has tried to sponsor. The first, an eight-member family which was scheduled to arrive in May, canceled. A second family of six members was unable to come because of the fighting which broke out in Thailand in June.

"We decided it was a waste of time just to let the apartment sit here," said Jacksonville, Fla. native Kathy Webb, who directed the painting and clean-up operations. Deal called Catholic Charities, which has a refugee program, and asked if there was a refugee family already in Louisville who needed a home.

Marv Manley, director of Catholic Charities Migration and Refugee Service, said, "We jumped at it," in reference to Deal's inquiry.

The group's main task now will be to help the family learn to live in Louisville and to take members to places "such as the zoo and museums — show them that we care," Deal says.

The new occupants of the apartment at 1344 South Street include Ka Xao Lee, 60, his wife Xia Xiong, 45, and their sons Kham, Mea, and Blong, 18, 14, and 10 respectively. Also in the extended family are Lee's son, Yeng Lee, 27, and daughter-in-law Nou Xiong.

Thursday, August 7, 1980

BAPTIST RECORD PAGE 7

Floral Arrangements Add Beauty To Church, Bring Joy To Shut-Ins

By Peg Landry
Reprinted from
Jackson County Independent.

Every Sunday the First Baptist Church of Gautier is filled with abundant and lovely floral arrangements. And their beauty doesn't stop there as the fragrant blossoms are later made into a number of smaller arrangements that bring joy to the elderly and the unwell.

The practice was begun about four years ago by Libbie and Graham Moseley of Gautier. Mrs. Moseley continues to act as flower chairman today with the help of her husband. Their thoughtfulness in delivering flowers and a smile to those in need was such a hit that 12 dedicated women of the church now assist in spreading the arrangements.

From January to July 17 there had been 188 arrangements delivered by the church members.

Saturdays the Moseleys arrange

fresh flowers into two four-foot arrangements. The flowers are given by church members in memory of a deceased member or in honor of a church member who may be celebrating an anniversary or birthday.

On Sunday nights the Moseleys return to the church where they rearrange the flowers into smaller arrangements in "the flower room." The flower room is kept at low temperatures to preserve the freshness of the flowers.

Without fail members of the flower committee deliver the precious arrangements each Monday. Because the women take time to stop and chat the deliveries become a full day's work. For this reason the 12 take turns delivering and recording where the flowers are taken on a chart in the flower room.

Each arrangement carries a card entitled "Prescription for the day" with a cheery note. Each person also receives a bulletin from the previous

day's services in order that they may keep up with church news.

Flowers are delivered first to church members. Then the committee reaches out to the community, visiting hospitals and nursing homes. Mrs. Moseley and pastor of the church, Billy Williams, let the committee know of members who are ill or in the hospital.

One Monday the committee delivered an arrangement of gladioli and baby's breath to a church member, Janis Green. Because of illness, Mrs. Green is unable to leave home much or to attend many church services. The flowers brighten her whole day, she says, and she loves to visit with the women who bring her arrangements faithfully every other week. Visiting with the always cheerful Mrs. Green is a reward in itself, says Mrs. Moseley. She makes you stop and smell the flowers.

Two members of the committee making deliveries are Bobbie Pankonin and Sally Curry of Gautier. Mrs. Pankonin became a member of the committee because she liked visiting the elderly and the shut-in.

"You just have to stop and visit," said Mrs. Curry. "They are so appreciative." She summed up her feelings this way. "It helps me more than it helps them. It blesses me more than the people we take flowers to."

(Note: A church family which owns a florist shop provides the flowers at cost. Mrs. Moseley provides the supplies necessary, such as plastic containers. Therefore, the flower ministry has not used any budgeted church funds for two years. The church financial secretary keeps receipts for the gifts to flowers, so that those who wish may receive tax credit. Also names of donors appear in the church bulletin each week.

Members of the Flower Committee assist in placing the flowers in the sanctuary, as Mr. Moseley, age 74, is visually handicapped.)



Southwestern Grants Degrees

Six students from Mississippi were part of the summer commencement exercises July 11 at Southwestern Seminary, Fort Worth. Two of those got doctorates. Daniel C. W. Tse, president of Hong Kong Baptist College, addressed the 190-member class at ceremonies held at Travis Avenue Baptist Church.

The six from Mississippi were: Delton Maloy Beall, MDiv, son of Mr. and Mrs. L. L. Beall, Jackson; Robert L. Jackson, MDiv, son, M/M Robert G. Jackson, Oxford; James Floyd Francis, MCM, son, M/M Floyd Francis, Tupelo; Robert William Goodman, Jr., MCM, son, M/M Robert William Goodman, Gulfport; Albert Bolling Kelly, DMin, son, M/M A. B. Kelly, Yazoo City; and David Byron Jones, EDD, son, M/M Udele T. Jones, Vicksburg.

A man's palate can, in time, become accustomed to anything. — Napoleon

CLASSIFIED

WJKN Radio is accepting applications for part-time announcer. Prefer someone with experience in broadcasting; however, if you have a burning desire to be a part of gospel radio, will consider training. Good working conditions and Christian atmosphere. Must be able to work weekends. To apply, come in person to WJKN, 1160 E. 1st Street, Jackson, MS 39201. WJKN is an equal opportunity employer.

THE VILLAGE VIEW

FROM
Baptist Children's Village
P. O. Box 11308 Jackson, MS 39213

News From The Children:

Willie and Charlene Martin, brother and sister living in our Group Home in New Albany, have participated in a mission trip to Thoreau, New Mexico with a group from First Baptist Church in New Albany. Charlene assisted with a Vacation Bible School and Willie helped with the construction of the church building.

Mike Spivey from our Group Home in New Albany, continues to distinguish himself in track. During this summer, he ran in the Saltillo Civitan 5-Mile event, coming in first and breaking the record which he set last year by 4 minutes.

On July 12, 56 adults from Marshall County, under the sponsorship of the W.M.U., visited on our Farrow Manor Campus and hosted a picnic shared by our children and staff with these visiting friends. In addition to the "fixing" for the picnic, the guests, accompanied by Rev. Arthur Leslie, Marshall County Director of Missions, brought appreciated gifts of clothes, quilts and cash. This represents the second, annual such picnic involving these Marshall County friends.

Village Alumni Reunion Schedule

All former residents of The Baptist Children's Village or Mississippi Baptist Orphanage will meet in semi-annual Reunion in Powell Chapel on the Flag Chapel Drive campus of The Children's Village in Jackson on Saturday, August 9, 1980. On this occasion, The Village Alumni Association will conduct its formal business meeting, which will include a two-hour program featuring reports, addresses and choral music, designed to provide both information and inspiration. As is the custom, the major emphasis of the Reunion will be upon fun, fellowship and renewing of old acquaintances.

Any former resident or staff member of either The Baptist Children's Village or Mississippi Baptist Orphanage is cordially invited to attend. Registration will begin at 8:30 o'clock A.M. and the noon luncheon will be hosted by current staff at The Village.

On July 14, a Choir of young people from Crowder Baptist Church, under the direction of C. E. Sutherland presented a choral concert for Village staff and children, in Powell Chapel on the Jackson campus. The concert included contemporary Christian music and original skits, written and directed by members of the Choir. The entire group were guests of The Village in various cottages for the evening. After the concert, teenagers and staff from the Jackson campus entertained with a cook-out and swimming party at Hester Activities Building. Crowder Baptist Church has hosted Village choirs annually for many years on choir tours and it was our pleasure to have representatives of this fine church return the visit.

The youngest children on our Jackson campus have enjoyed using the beginnings of their own special, private play-ground, during this summer. Mr. Bob Catlett, the first Director of our new Department of Recreation, with the assistance of maintenance staff, has redeemed, reclaimed, rebuilt and invented enough play-ground equipment to commence his adopted project of providing a "children's park" for the exclusive use of our boys and girls in the first three grades of school and of preschool age, directly across the Village street from Hester Activities Building. Well shaded by a large tree, the park includes swings, see-saws, large sand box, "monkey-bars", and a few other home-made playground facilities. Additional playground equipment is needed for this park and for all locations on our Jackson campus. Interested donors are invited to contact us.



Presenting Our Staff

J. Wallace Lee, left, Administrative Assistant 4 1/2 years of service.

Alabel M. Liles, right, Social Caseworker 8 1/2 years of service.

July program features on the Village's Jackson campus included a slumber party at the Henry Glaze campus residence, hosted for Village teenagers girls by Diane Dunlap and Gail Griffin, student summer missionaries assigned to the Jackson campus, with the assistance of Mrs. Glaze. The party included fun, food and fellowship, as well as a period of devotion during which Diane and Gail gave their testimonies with emphasis for their reasons for becoming summer missionaries.

Bob Catlett, Director of Recreation, assisted by Wallace Lee, Administrative Assistant accompanied 20 of our younger teenagers boys from the Jackson campus to Cooper Lake for an over-night camp-out. Mr. Catlett, assisted by Henry Glaze, Home Life Director on the Jackson campus hosted a camping trip to Cooper Lake for 16 older Village teenagers boys who fished, swam and slept under the stars, enjoying pancakes, eggs and sausage which Mr. Catlett prepared for breakfast.

July 4 on the Jackson campus is "Play-Day". For many years, the Village staff has provided organized structured play and a large picnic on this national holiday for our children. Originally, the occasion represented an attempt to provide a fun opportunity "at home". In an effort to keep Village children and their well-meaning friends off the highways on this dangerous holiday. The popularity of the occasion, which resembles a combination of a track meet and an old fashioned family picnic, has increased with the children through the years until we now observe a second such day — on Labor Day. In 1980, our children and young people enjoyed one of their better "Play-Days" on July 4. Under the general supervision of Bob Catlett, our Director of Recreation, with the assistance of virtually our entire staff, tournament-style competition was offered our young people for an entire week preceding July 4, with finals in all events conducted on the holiday. From baseball throws to diving; from a gigantic tug-of-war to the traditional softball pitting children against staff, the entire occasion was a happy, busy and successful highlight of the summer. The traditional family picnic under the trees near Powell Chapel, enjoyed by all children and all staff together and the throwing of Mr. Glaze, our Home Life Director into the mud pit by older children, climaxed a safe and happy 4th of July for residents on our Jackson campus.



As Village Boys and Girls Go BACK TO SCHOOL

They NEED A "LIFT" FROM INDIVIDUAL DONORS THROUGH:

1. Cash gifts to our BACK TO SCHOOL FUND — the most helpful and efficient way.
2. Cash sponsors for designated children, payable monthly, quarterly or annually in sums of \$13.00 to \$43.00 per month.
3. School clothing sponsors for designated children. Sew or shop — We will furnish sizes — OR — Send us \$45.00 to \$80.00 and we will outfit a child for you.

THE BACK TO SCHOOL FUND FILLS SCHOOL-RELATED NEEDS OF ALL VILLAGE CHILDREN:

In Jackson
In New Albany
On Farrow Manor Campus
At Dickerson Place

CONTACT:
THE BAPTIST CHILDREN'S VILLAGE
BOX 11308
Jackson, Mississippi 39213
Telephone No. 922-2242

Senior Adult Day

SENIOR ADULT DAY was held at ANTIOCH, COLUMBUS (LOWNDES ASSOCIATION), on May 28. The day began with a coffee and doughnut fellowship before Sunday School, sponsored by the Brotherhood. The morning service was directed toward the senior adults, who were served lunch by the Baptist Young Women afterwards. The evening service was led by the senior adults who shared poems, scriptures and testimonies. Crafts and handwork made by the senior adults were on display throughout the day.



Special recognition went to the following people: WILLIE MAE HARDIN was presented a Bible as the Senior Citizen of the Year by MACPAC, coordinator of the Young at Heart club of Antioch.



MRS. ELLEN HODGES (left) was recognized as the oldest senior adult at Antioch, while MR. AND MRS. J. C. HARDIN, right, were honored as having been married the longest (49 years).



These Royal Ambassadors raised over \$250 in a walk-a-thon for disaster relief. The boys, from First Church, Gulfport, enlisted people to sponsor the walk for any amount of money per mile. The money was used to purchase and stock a large first aid kit to be placed in the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board's Disaster Relief Unit. The disaster relief work is one of the beneficiaries of the State Mission Offering. The boys, left to right, are Clarence Vaughn, counselor; Tim Whitten; Brian Stank; Steve McSwain; Jim McSwain, counselor; Alan Tisdale; Jason Vaughn; Joseph Curet; and Adam Wilson. Participating, but not pictured were Norman Stank, and Scott and Todd Keith. The kit and the check to stock it was presented to Frank Simmons at the church's Sunday evening service June 8. Simmons, Gulfshore manager, is on the disaster relief team.

How To Live A Hundred Years Happily

1. Do not be on the lookout for ill health.
2. Keep usefully at work.
3. Have a hobby.
4. Learn to be satisfied.
5. Keep on liking people.
6. Meet adversity valiantly.
7. Meet the little problems of life with decision.

8. Above all, maintain a good sense of humor, best done by saying something pleasant every time you get a chance.
9. Live and make the present hour pleasant and cheerful. Keep your mind out of the past and keep it in the future.

—Healthways

Vandercook Takes New Post

Paul Vandercook has accepted the call of the Gulf Coast Association to serve as director of ministries, a new position created in cooperation with the Mississippi Baptist Convention and the Home Mission Board.

For over five years he has worked with Gulf Coast as director of language ministries while also serving in the Jackson County Association.

In the new job he will work full time in Gulf Coast leading the work in language, resorts, and Christian social ministries. He will also coordinate the work of local and out of town volunteers.

Gunnison Will Show "The Hiding Place"

The film, "The Hiding Place," will be shown at the Gunnison Church Sunday, Aug. 24, at 7 p.m. John R. Conn, Jr. is the pastor.

At Sunland In Florida

Goss Group Leads VBS For Mentally Retarded

July 20, in the middle of a thunderstorm, the Goss Church bus pulled away from the church parking lot with five adults and seven youths. Their destination was Marianna, Fla. Their purpose was to lead Vacation Bible at Sunland, a school for the mentally retarded.

The next few days, in a large assembly room, the group used puppets, songs, and smiles to bring the Bible alive for their students. Following the group assembly they divided into small groups for Bible stories which were taught by flannel boards and flip charts. Each day's session concluded with paper handwork.

The mission tour was sponsored by the church as a part of her "Touching the World" mission program for 1980. Transportation was provided by the church and motel expense assumed by interested church members who could not go. Those who were able to make the trip paid for their meals and entertainment.

Adults who participated were Jerry and Vicki Mixon, pastor and wife, Ken and Tammy Hedgpath, and Brenda Ramshur. Youth workers were Kim Cutrer, Brenda Bourne, Glenda Robertson, Debbie Davis, Glen Bourne, Mitch Morgan and Tommy Broom.

Eudora Youths Lead Revival, Bible Clubs In Pennsylvania

Thirteen youths and adults from First Church, Eudora have recently returned from a week of mission work in the Tamaqua, Penn. area. The group was in Tamaqua June 28-July 3. Five Backyard Bible Clubs were held each day, Monday through Thursday, in different sections of the county; 128 area children were enrolled in the Bible Clubs and three made decisions to accept Christ.

Revival services were conducted Sunday through Wednesday. Wayne Edwards, pastor of the Eudora Church, preached the messages, and the youth group from Eudora provided special music.

The tour was coordinated by the Home Mission Board and Dudley Penton, pastor of the Tamaqua Baptist Church in Pennsylvania. The Tamaqua Church has approximately 24 members and is located in a town of 10,000. It is the only evangelical church in the entire area.

"The group from Eudora is grateful to the Lord for the opportunity to serve in Pennsylvania, and very thankful that He blessed their efforts so tremendously," stated Andy Roby, minister of music and youth at First Church, Eudora, who led the mission trip.

Devotional Essence Of Humility

By Kirby Tyrone, Retired Teacher, Prentiss
Psalm 84:10b and 1 Peter 5:5

In this theme the writer deems it necessary to present the meaning of humility as well as its abuses. Humility is tender love, full compassion, respect for an individual and other like ingredients. Illustrations pro and con, it seems, are necessary to develop the subject graphically.

Kindly attention toward children many times enables them in their immaturity to refrain from unsocial and annoying acts. Likewise the same standard applies to adults, as well as others, regardless of age.

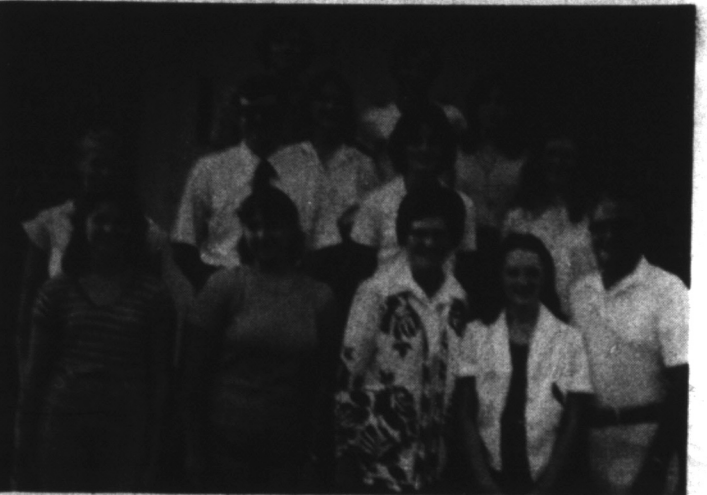
In another state, a teacher promoted a child to an advanced class and remarked: "He is mean as the devil and needs a watching eye every moment of the day." His new teacher did carefully observe him, but for a different reason, namely to detect good in him, the result being that he did something creditable and won the praise of the teacher. Consequently, the child took a look up, so to speak, and in the future put his every thought onto extensive study, and assumed a lovely disposition. That youngster graduated from high school, did graduate work and today is on the faculty of a college in Kansas.

In one of the colleges in Mississippi a basketball player often used unethical means to succeed in the game. Arrogance prevailed in his every action. Consequently few people respected him. After graduation, he entered the business world, using the same or like methods as in college. One failure followed another until few people patronized him and his sale dropped to the bottom. Today that person resides on the farm he owns in another part of the country as friendless as man can be and lonely in his daily life.

An apt and appealing example of humility is included in a press release by Lieutenant General Sidney B. Berry, who at the time was president of West Point Military Academy. He said: "I was taught to believe in God, personal integrity, respect for human dignity, patriotism and public service, hard work and to say 'sir' and 'yes ma'am' to my elders." He is now Director of Public Safety in this state.

It has been noticed some people have used the most underhanded methods imaginable in accumulating wealth. For instance, one individual sold property to people and before the note was due used trickery in reclaiming the property. Time and again the abuse continued until numerous people were without homes in which to live. The manipulator in this case amassed a fortune, but seemingly is without a sense of remorse for what he did.

About as interesting and dramatic an illustration of humility known to the writer was the case of the then Vice-President Alben W. Barkley in addressing the graduation class of the University of Kentucky. As he spoke to the student body, he closed his message in an effort to paraphrase Psalm 84:10b, expressing his true attitude in life: "I had rather be a doorkeeper in the House of the Lord than to sit in the seats of the mighty," instantly falling to the floor a dead man, thus in reality moving into the House of the Lord.



Eudora youths in Pennsylvania.

Uniform Lesson

The Call To Rebuild

By Jack Glaze, Chairman,
Division of Religion
Mississippi College
Basic Passages: Haggai; Zechariah
1:1-4; 7:4

Focal Passages: Haggai 1:2-8;
Zechariah 8:14-17

The Lesson Background: (The lesson passage should be studied prior to reading the commentary.)

The Bible defines a prophet as a spokesman for God (cf. Ex. 4:13-16 and Ex. 7:1-2). His first task was to announce God's message to his people in his day and in his language. Not only did the prophet receive the word of the Lord, he also was charged with the task of interpreting the word to his people (cf. Jer. 15:19-20; Jer. 23:18). He proclaimed the message and exhorted the people to moral obedience.

The message included judgment on sin and salvation for the repentant. As a result of human failure, the message of doom and hope moved from the present to the future with ease and the secondary aspect of prophecy becomes evident: promise and fulfillment. The future projections included oracles of doom as well as ones of hope. To understand the nature of these inspired messages the interpreter must recognize that the future projections were given in the first place to an original audience.

In the providence of God, those who have the privilege of a later and broader historical view can humbly stand in awe of God's power to achieve His purpose in the events of men and, more gloriously, in the advent of His promised One, Jesus of Nazareth.

The weekly Sunday School lessons move rapidly from one crisis to another. The partial fulfillment of the promises projected in Isaiah, Jeremiah and Ezekiel created new tensions and interpretive needs in the life of God's people. Again God spoke through His messengers. Ezra 4-6 gives the historical background for the period of Haggai and Zechariah. Cyrus issued his famous decree in 538 B.C. that allowed the exiled Jews to return to Jerusalem (cf. Ezra 1:1-4). The words of Isaiah 40-48 became a reality and a small group of the Jewish exiles elected to return under the leadership of Sheshbazzar (Ezra 5:16) and Zerubbabel. The hoped for glorious "messianic reign" did not immediately materialize. Quite to the contrary, the repatriates found the once noble city a pile of ruined stones.

There were no city walls for protection against marauders. Opposition soon arose from the Samaritans (Ezra 4:1-3) and the local land owners (Ezra 4:4).

A new Persian emperor, Cambyses, the son of Cyrus, did not continue the benign policy of his father and the temple building permit was cancelled (Ezra 4:6-21). The revolt that occurred at his death (525 B.C.) created greater instability. In addition to these difficulties, crop failures (Haggai 1:10-11) accentuated the problems. Considering the circumstances, it is easy to understand the community's discouragement and loss of hope.

The Lesson Outlined
Just when the situation seemed hopeless, God inspired the work of two of His prophets. Haggai suddenly appeared on the scene and called for practical action. The Temple, God's house, was in ruins. God could not bless when he was placed in a secondary position. The building project was begun in 520 B.C. Shortly thereafter, Zechariah joined Haggai and added the call for repentance (cf. Zech. 1-8). The popular reaction was sustained and the reconstruction was completed in 516 B.C. (cf. Ezra 6:15).

I. The Call to Rebuild the Temple (Haggai 1:1-8). With a direct and forceful style, the prophet immediately addressed the critical problem.

1. Rebuke for Indifference (1:2-4). Zerubbabel and Joshua, the leaders, were held responsible for the welfare of the community. The prophet began with a general rebuke, holding both the people and leaders responsible for the deplorable situation. They were reprimanded for their indifference to the need for worship. They did not see the critical necessity for the house of the Lord to be rebuilt (v. 2). The Lord saw the problem differently (v. 4). The problem went beyond a temple structure. For nearly 66 years they had done without a temple and ceremonial activities. They had no unifying principle that could hold the community together.

2. A Punishment for Indifference (1:5-6). The people seemingly had forgotten the Lord of hosts, so God had abandoned them! The people had returned with high hopes for an immediate "messianic" era of prosperity and victory. In their difficulties they had begun to lose faith in the prophetic promises. They were more concerned about their economic well

being than they were about their spiritual condition. Their priorities had become inverted and Haggai called for a re-evaluation of their ways (v. 5). The temple and true worship (cf. Zech. 8:14-17) would tie the past and future together. God then would be present in the midst of his people. Meanwhile, crop failures were God's judgment on Israel's selfishness. Consequently, the staple crops had failed and inflation was rampant (v. 6c).

3. A Challenge to Rebuild the Temple (1:7-9). Although the oracle was in the judgment-rebuke style, the purpose was to encourage the community to resume the abandoned building task that had begun some 16 years before (cf. Ezra 3:2-3). God's judgment was meant to be constructive. Now it was time for action, not talk: "Go to the mountain, and bring wood . . ." (1:8). God would be glorified through the rebuilding of the temple.

Haggai proclaimed a tremendous truth about the divine glory; however, it was in Christ that the fullness of the divine glory was finally revealed. (cf. I Cor. 2:8, Col. 1:27). The New Testament affirms that God's glory was not fully realized in the second temple, but in the word made flesh (cf. John 1:1-18). Nevertheless, Haggai anticipated the reconciliation of God and man and understood the importance place worship plays in the redeemed community.

II. The Challenge of a New Opportunity (Zechariah 8:14-17). Haggai and Zechariah (along with Malachi) are known as "the prophets of restoration." Zechariah 1-8 deals with the same themes treated by Haggai. The response of the people to the challenge to rebuild would result in their salvation (Zech. 8:13). Consequently, they would be a blessing. Therefore, "Fear not, but let your hands be strong."

1. A Blessing Promised (8:14-15). God has changed his attitude toward the people. Just as his judgment was sent on the sinful community, now his blessings would be on Jerusalem. (The Sovereign God is as able to bless as he is able to judge.)

2. The Requirements of the New Opportunity. Lest his people misunderstand the essential nature of salvation and worship by falling into the error of external ritualism (temple worship), God revealed anew the ethical requirements of his covenant (8:16). The renewed covenant was also one of grace.

Life and Work Lesson Called To New Life And Hope

By Bobby Perry, Pastor,
First, Moss Point
I Peter 1:1-12

Our studies for the quarter now focus upon the writings of the Apostle Peter. Previously we have noted something of Peter the man — his trials and growth into one of the early Christian leaders. Now we explore his exhortations in which he fulfilled Christ's commission to strengthen Christ's followers.

The recipients of the epistle were the believers in the churches of Asia Minor (verse 1). Although the churches were composed largely of Jewish Christians, it was written to bring comfort, strength, and encouragement to Christians who were enduring persecution. Although Peter deals with great doctrines and handles weighty subjects, he didn't write in a cold manner. Peter has been called the apostle of hope while Paul has been called the apostle of love. Hope is always tied with the suffering. Therefore, I think it is fair to say that the theme is the Christian hope in the time of trial.

The primary focus of this lesson is that our hope in Christ is a source of present joy and sustains a promise of future fulfillment.

I. Introduction To The Book (I Peter 1:1-2)

"Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ." That is all he claimed to be. Although he always heads the list of apostles, he is not to be placed above the other apostles. Nowhere does Peter claim superiority. He was an apostle — that's all.

Unlike Paul, Peter made no defense for his apostleship. There was no basis upon which to question it. Peter only mentioned his apostleship and then moved on.

Peter begins by referring to both Jew and Gentile as, "Elect according to the foreknowledge of God." You see, God is moving according to His plan. Why? Because He knew it was the best possible plan, and man is in no position to challenge His choice. He is the Creator and we are the creatures.

However, foreknowledge of an event does not mean that one causes it. You see two automobiles rushing toward an intersection. From their distance and speed you know seconds beforehand that they will crash at the intersection. But your foreknowledge does not mean that you caused it. The tragic outcome rested within the free

will of the drivers. What we know finitely, God knows infinitely.

Peter ended his introduction with a prayer: "Grace unto you, and peace, be multiplied" or brought to its fullness. The order is not accidental. We receive God's grace, and the result is His peace. This was a meaningful prayer in the context of persecution.

II. New Life Brings Hope (I Peter 1:3-4)

There is not sufficient space to appropriate the riches of this passage, for there are few passages in the New Testament where more of the great fundamental ideas and concepts meet and come together.

This section begins with the idea of rebirth; the Christian is a person who has been reborn; he has been begotten again by God to a new and different kind of life. Whatever else this means, it means that when a person becomes a Christian, there comes into his life a change so radical and so decisive that he can only be said to be born again.

The new birth brings a new hope into the life of the believer. This living hope is a result of the believer's personal relationship with the living Savior. The One to whom the believer looks for salvation lives forever, having been resurrected from the dead. The resurrection was God's final affirmation of Jesus Christ. If Jesus Christ had not actually come from God, and if He had not accomplished man's redemption on the cross, He would never have been raised from the dead. We, as believers, have a living hope because our hope is based in a living Savior!

In addition to receiving a new, living hope through the new birth, the Christian is born into the family of God, and becomes an heir to the glorious inheritance of God. First, our inheritance is said to be "incorruptible." This means that it is imperishable, or that it has the ability not to decay. Second, our inheritance is "undefiled," or without any defect or flaw. Third, our inheritance "fadeth not away." The choice of words in the Greek especially emphasizes its permanence and unchangeableness. The Christian's inheritance is subject to neither external defilement nor to internal corruption.

Although the believer has a new hope and a glorious inheritance awaiting him in heaven, he does not yet possess all that is his. In this life, the Christian has One who guards him until that moment when he will enter into his inheritance. The One who pro-

tests the Christian is God Himself since believers are "kept by the power of God" (verse 5). Here Peter employs a Greek word for "kept" which means literally "to guard."

While these wonderful truths strike a note of rejoicing in the heart of the believer, the thought of persecutions seems to be foremost in Peter's mind. He digresses briefly from his main theme to remind his readers that in the midst of suffering, it is easy to forget that God watches over His children. Peter says that they may be experiencing a "season of . . . heaviness" (a period of sorrow) because of " manifold temptations" (many trials, verse 6). The emphasis seems to be on the sufferings which arise from external causes, not from sources within the individual.

In verse 7, Peter uses the illustration of the gold refining process. Fire is used to remove all the impurities in the metal. Men take care to make gold as pure as possible, and yet it is something that will one day perish. Faith, however, is of much greater value than gold, because faith is more enduring.

The goal that God has in view for His children is their salvation, but we need not wait until eternity to enjoy all of it. Peter views such blessings as assurances that the individual is a true child of God. There is both a present reality and a future expectation to our salvation.

III. The Prophet's Search Is Realized (I Peter 1:10-12)

In these final verses of the lesson Peter declares that his readers lived in the very crux of prophetic history. It was for this reason that they should live in accord with their opportunity.

The sufferings of Christ were no accident in history. They were the fulfillment of Old Testament prophecy. Peter said that the prophets "inquired" or "sought out" and "searched diligently" concerning God's grace designed to effect his purpose of salvation. What they sought but did not live to see had been fully revealed and effected in the time of the readers of this epistle. In prophet after prophet the Holy Spirit kept pointing up that God's grace in salvation would be offered to sinful man.

Finally, Peter comments on the angels' interest in the salvation which believers possess in Jesus Christ. It is something "the angels would like to look into."